



CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE

Inside: Home
Improvement
Section

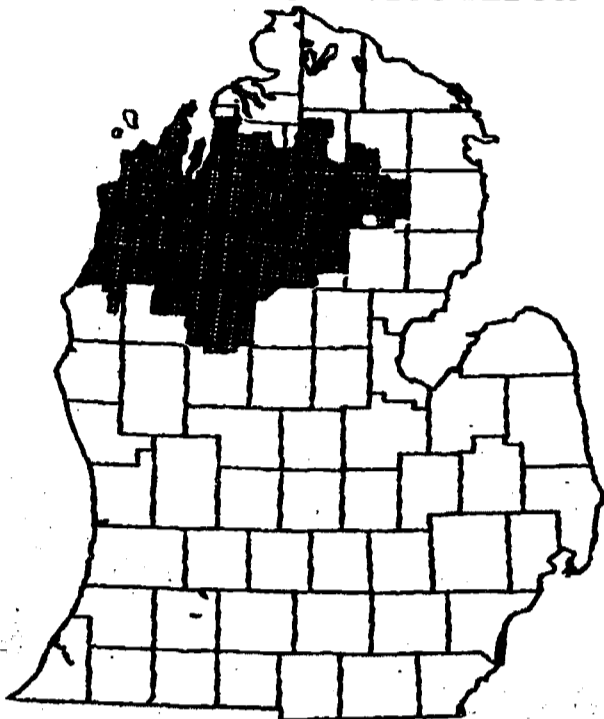
120 1998

"Home of the AuSable River"

50¢

Munson Healthcare merges with Mercy Health Services

Combined Service Area



MUNSON AND MERCY MERGER -- This graph shows the new combined service area brought about by the merging of Mercy Health Services and Munson Healthcare.

Mercy Health Services (MHS) and Munson Healthcare (MHC) announced a new partnership that will ensure continued quality, affordable health care and expanded services to patients in northern lower Michigan.

The partnership involves Mercy Health Services North (MHSN) based in Cadillac and Grayling and Munson Healthcare operations based in Traverse City.

This partnership represents a long-term commitment by Mercy and Munson to provide a broader scope of health services in local communities.

Munson will have management responsibility for the Mercy Health Services North facilities and services. The partnership does not include a merger of assets.

Mercy Hospitals in Cadillac and Grayling and its affiliated health centers will continue their Catholic identity and the mission, values and philosophy of Mercy Health Services and the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

"We've developed a partnership that best meets patient needs throughout northern Michigan,"

said Robert Laverty, executive vice president, system integration, Mercy Health Services.

"For more than 80 years," continued Laverty, "the Sisters of Mercy have demonstrated their commitment to health care in the north, but recognized the need to establish a formal partnership with a larger system in northern Michigan to strengthen its mission. We have determined Munson is the best partner."

According to Munson Healthcare CEO John Rockwood, "Creating this partnership reinforces our commitment to support the provision of health care in communities in northern Michigan. As a result of this agreement, we expect to improve local access to services offered in these communities."

Administrative, physician, and board representatives of each organization have been involved in extensive discussions since the summer of 1997. The talks have been supported by the governing boards, senior management, and representatives of the Religious Sisters of Mercy.

See "Mercy..." pg. 2-A

Everything you ever needed to know about 911

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

The chaotic imagery generated by television programming on 911 dispatch operations, "is nothing like the real 911 office," said Larry Akers, director for Crawford Emergency Central Dispatch in Grayling.

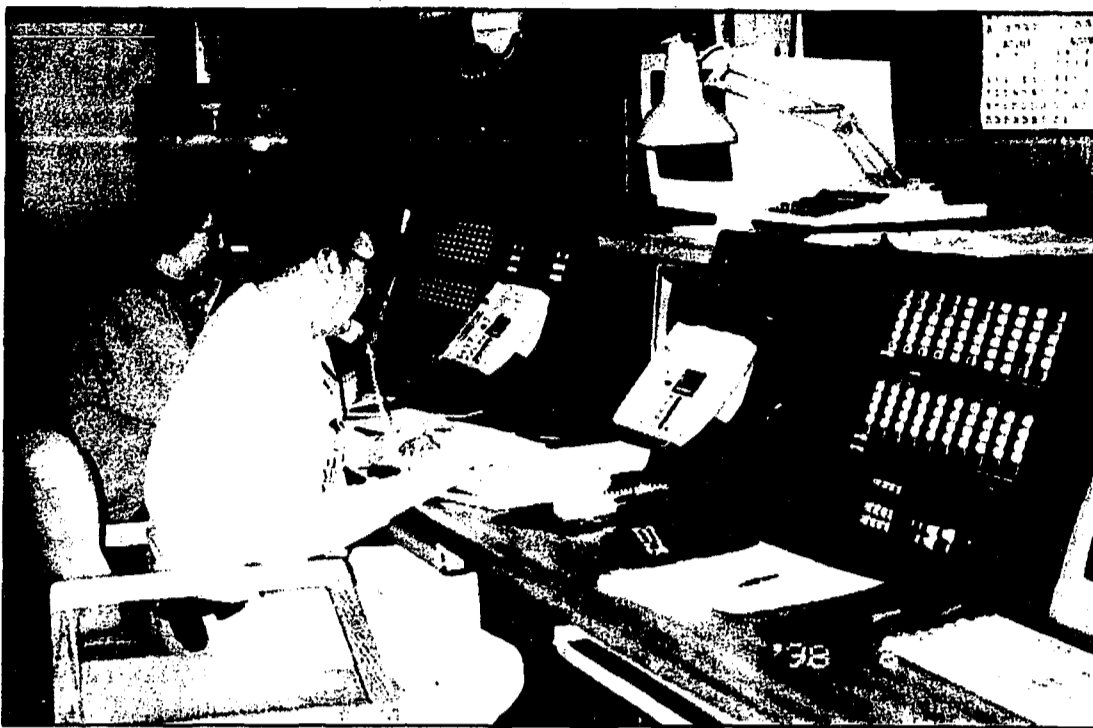
But to those who depend upon it, it's invaluable.

And it sure gets busy, Akers admits, though the bulk of the 911 calls in the Grayling office are not emergency related. The majority of them are made to assist law enforcement agencies do their job, and without the help of 911 operators, the criminal justice system in Crawford County would be missing its right arm.

Crawford Emergency Central Dispatch (911) in Grayling is not a big city, emergency response operation, nor is it staffed with a host of medical technicians who talk frantic young women through labor and madmen out of their weapons. It does, however, try to calm anxious children when they find their parents gone, and it one case...

"This elderly lady called to see if you could substitute nutmeg for cinnamon in tea."

Most of the 36,756 operator-assisted calls and LEIN (Law Enforcement Identification) checks are to aid the Michigan State Police, the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, and the Grayling City Police Department. Unfortunately, nearly 10 percent of calls are categorized as abandoned or non-response calls, requiring operator activity and tracking but



911 SWITCHBOARD -- Crawford County 911 operators Sue Medler and Jim Baker work at the system's two terminals. The response system is used to aid state and local law enforcement as well as handle emergency calls from the public. County budget problems have put the 911 operation in jeopardy. Photo by Shirley D. Schmoock.

no further action.

"We prioritize all calls," said Akers, "with fire and law enforcement at the top of the list."

Again, the majority of the area agencies dispatched to emergency situations were units of law enforcement, with thousands of calls each to the Crawford County Sheriff, the Grayling Police and the Michigan State Police.

An example of an officer assisted call:

When an officer calls to identify

an automobile, a driver, or the passengers in the subject vehicle, 911 operators enter the available information into three computer data bases.

The first receives the location and license number. The 911 office then runs the license plate through the Secretary of State's computer. This check identifies the vehicle involved.

The second computerized check identifies the subject. This is done in 90 percent of the cases when a

traffic stop is made, Akers said.

The third check is through the FBI's criminal records files, where outstanding warrants are disclosed, either in or out-of-state. These reports come across fiber optic cables into the 911 office in a matter of seconds, eliminating costly minutes when the officer may be at risk.

The printing of this information actually seems to take longer than the receipt of the information itself. See "Everything you..." Pg. 3-A

Road Commission outlines 1998 summer work program

The Crawford County Road Commission will soon embark on its extensive 1998 Summer Work Program.

The Road Commission's work force will take on a variety of maintenance services in a number of areas. Part of the program involves road and bridge work, which will be performed by private contractors selected through a competitive bidding process.

The program should result in more construction and improved maintenance, with minimal depletion of commission resources.

Part of the program will include road sign improvements. Over 100 stop signs will be placed throughout the county. Also, the 1997/1998 sign safety program on major roads such as County Road 612, North Down

River Road and Lovells Road will continue this summer.

The prison crew will be clearing areas near and before signs to improve visibility for motorists. This includes removal of such bothersome obstructions as brush, stumps, mounds and old posts.

Sign crews will be properly supervised in order to protect the workers and the public in addition to helping guarantee that quality work will be done.

The sign program is funded mostly by back to back federal grants of \$100,000.

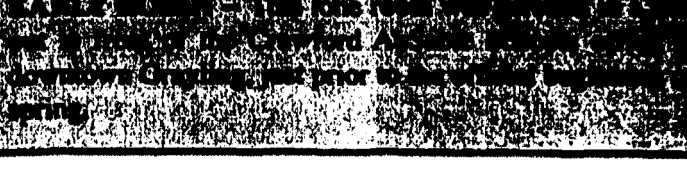
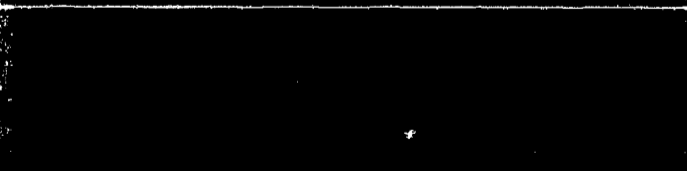
Roads to receive maintenance include Townline Rd., Conners Flat Rd., Walsh Rd. and Pioneer Rd. The commission has applied for funds to reconstruct McMasters Bridge Road through the Public Lands Highway

Program.

As of now, funding for some maintenance on North Down River Road has been set aside. Two miles

of the road will be worked on, including guardrail replacement and shoulder shaping. Any additional See "Crawford County..." pg. 3-A

Early March robin looks forward to springtime



Drug Task Force approves two mini-grant applications

by Caleb Casey
Staff Writer

The Crawford AuSable School District Drug Free School Community Task Force met on Tuesday, March 17 to discuss grant applications.

The Task Force accepted proposals for its available grants from area organizations for various activities or programs that would help to promote a drug free environment. The Task Force money, a total of \$10,000 was made available through a district grant from the State Office of Drug Control Policy.

The Community Task Force received a total of five applications for its available mini-grants. At the Tuesday night meeting two of them were approved.

One grant of \$1,000 was awarded to Project Graduation, a program started a few years ago in order to decrease drunk driving on graduation night. The event begins immediately following graduation and lasts until early in the morning.

There are various activities for the graduates to participate in, as well as food and prizes.

The Grayling Sheriff's Department was the recipient of the other grant, a \$958 award, which will be used to purchase "fatal vision goggles." The goggles are designed to simulate the effects of being intoxicated.

The Sheriff's Department will use the goggles in presentations to students in Grayling Middle School and Grayling High School in an attempt to discourage drug and alcohol use.

The Task Force will be meeting again on March 30 to discuss the remaining three applications. After clarification and further discussion of these proposals the Task Force will make a decision regarding approval.

The story of April Fool's Day

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

The custom of playing tricks on friends and sending them on silly errands dates back to the early 18th century and maybe before. There is little reference to the celebration in early literature.

In Great Britain, the former celebration of All Fool's Day was — or was thought to be — an offshoot of the annual feast of the Vernal Equinox. This celebration was held in honor of the 'turning of the seasons' and was meant to praise the glory of the coming of spring.

In India, during the Feast of Holi, the chief amusement on the last day of March each year is to assign fruitless and foolish tasks to friends. It is usually the more glib members of the family, like the children, who enjoy this day the most.

In Scotland, one is sent 'hunting

for gowks' — aptly named April Gowks — for a gowk is a cuckoo, the Scottish designation for contempt.

Another source says that "England, France and Germany appropriated to themselves this facetious custom in order to send friends on 'bootless' errands." Bootless is defined as 'unprofitable, unavailing, and otherwise useless'.

Another theory traces the custom to Noah, who is said to have sent one of his doves out searching for dry land.

In any case, the French are probably the people who began the whole thing: When that nation changed their New Year from April to January in 1564 — it is said they "no longer had anything but burlesque to celebrate, as April was now destitute of formal activities."

Anyone for a 'gowk hunt'? Or, is that 'a snipe hunt'?

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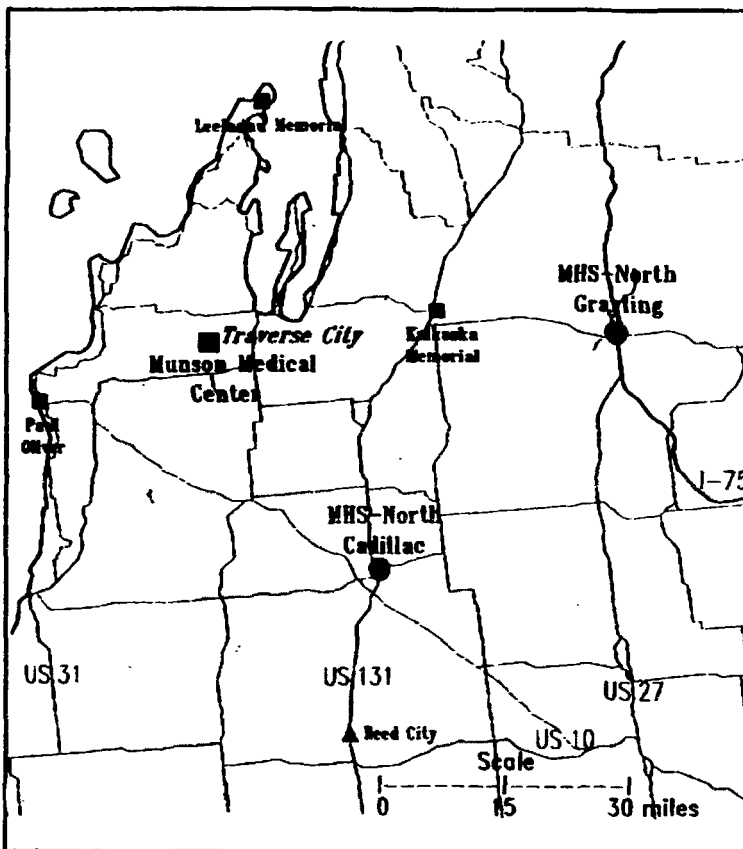
Spring 1998 - Course Schedule
March 30 - June 8, 1998

CODE	CLASS	DAY
ACC 203	Managerial Accounting	Monday
ACC 302	Intermediate Accounting II	Monday
CIS 101	Computer Information Processing	Monday
MTH 402	Statistics II	Monday
MGT 424	Labor and Employment Law	Monday
ACC 350	Accounting and Information Systems	Tuesday
ECO 301	Microeconomics	Tuesday
MGT 300	Principles of Management	Tuesday
INT 350	Principles of International Business	Tuesday
ACC 235	Accounting Appic/Microcomputer	Wednesday
ACC 236	Payroll Appic/Microcomputer (Begins May 6)	Wednesday
COM 120	Interpersonal Communications	Wednesday
MKT 410	Contemporary Issues in Marketing	Wednesday
ACC 330	Taxation I	Thursday
COM 318	Writing About Literature	Thursday
SOC 210	General Psychology	Thursday

All classes are held at Gaylord High School from 6:00 - 9:25 pm

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Munson Healthcare merges with Mercy Health Services



HEALTH CARE MERGER -- This map shows most of the service area the merged health care institutions will now cover.

Subscriptions 348-6811

Concluded from pg. 1-A

During the first six months of the agreement, physicians, governing board members, and administrators at Mercy Health Services, Mercy Cadillac, Mercy Grayling and Munson will work to find ways to improve the value of services provided through Mercy and Munson facilities.

Working together, with employees and community members, the teams will identify opportunities to better meet the needs of patients.

Anticipated benefits of Mercy and Munson's new partnership include:

- Improving services to patients and their families by improving quality, increasing access to care and enhancing services.
- Linking clinical and financial information systems to enhance patient care.
- Better meeting the needs of the poor and under served by creating new or expanded health ministries.
- Further developing the continuum of care through partnerships with providers, employers, physicians and insurers.
- Further improving health care in

rural northern Michigan by investing in new ambulatory health centers.

In addition to the three hospitals, MHS and MHC will create a patient care network in northern Michigan including home care, rehabilitation services, long-term care facilities, and numerous primary and specialty services.

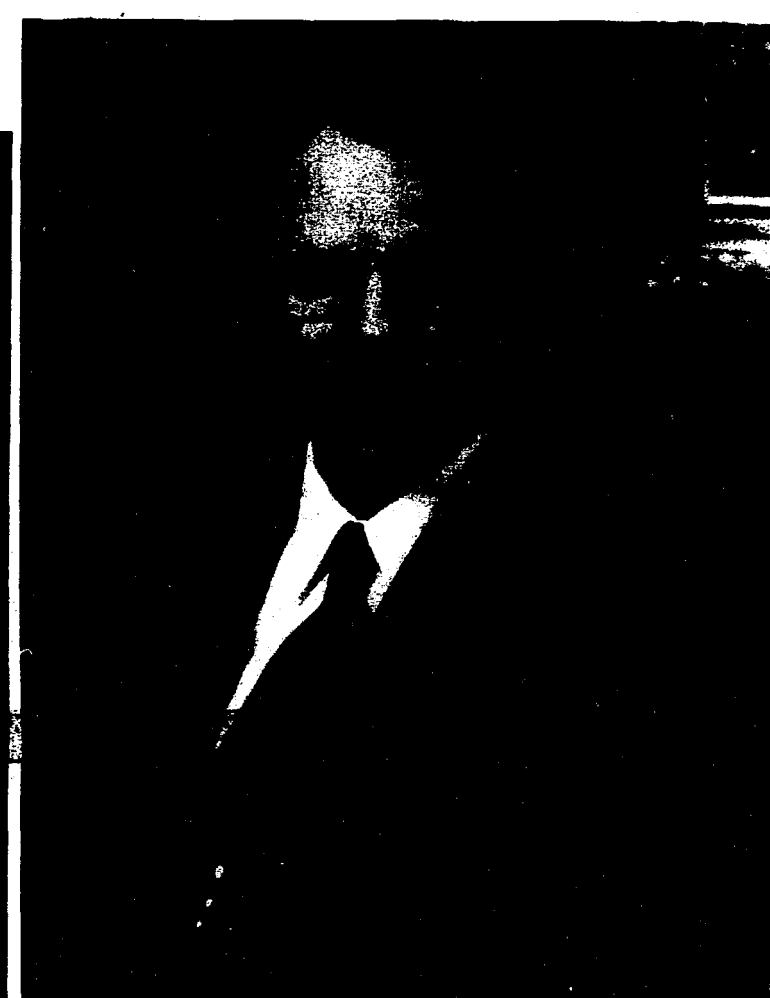
"Local governing boards will continue to oversee operations," stated Michael Peterson, Mercy North's interim CEO, "but work together to build northern Michigan's leading integrated health system."

"Mercy and Munson offer a complete range of health care services focused on improving community health and meeting community needs."

Munson's Rockwood shares the same vision for the future.

"Munson is committed to expanding its services in northern Michigan to meet community needs," he said. "Local boards, physicians, and staff who work and live in these communities will have a major role in identifying ways in which services can be enhanced."

Bradstreet to run for Lowe's seat



Area businessman Ken Bradstreet has announced his candidacy as a Republican candidate for the 105th District of the State House of Representatives.

Bradstreet grew up in Maple Forest Township near Frederic, and attended Frederic Public School from 1956 to 1964.

A 21-year Gaylord resident, Bradstreet has been the Vice President of Advertisers Postal Service for the past 12 years.

Bradstreet is also the Executive Director of the Association of Alternate Postal Systems.

As director, Bradstreet has represented the private delivery industry before the Postal Rate Commission in Washington, and has worked with U.S. Congressional staff personnel to help shape postal legislation and reform.

Locally, Bradstreet has served as a speaker for Right To Life and on the Board of Directors of Northern Christian Radio in Gaylord.

For three years he has coached the varsity basketball and baseball teams for Northern Michigan Christian Academy and coached ten years for the Gaylord Little League.

"Working for Allen Lowe's re-election campaign in 1994, I became interested in the 105th District," recalls Bradstreet. "Allen asked me at that time if I had an interest in serving as a representative, and I told him 'no way'."

"But, as the years have passed since then, and Allen has continued to encourage me a number of times since, I have warmed to the idea."

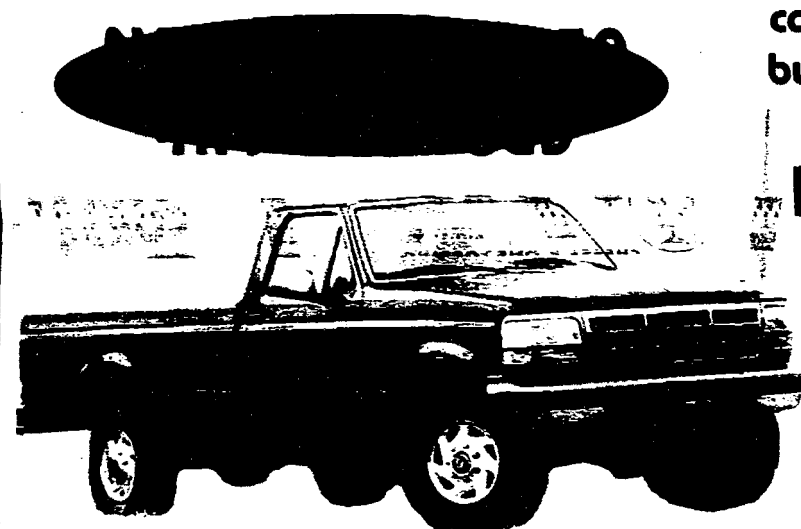
"I have never thought of myself as a Republican or Democrat. I have voted for both. I am independent, conservative, and I tend to vote for the person, not the party," said Bradstreet. Then added, "I even have a bit of Libertarian in me."

The candidate states that he is "absolutely pro-life", a conservationist, and avid outdoorsman. Bradstreet is also a member of the National Rifle Association.

"My main objective is to carry on the outstanding job that Allen Lowe has been doing over the past six years. Allen is the best we have ever had."

"If I could work for the people of the 105th District and come anywhere close to Allen's level of service, I would consider myself a success," commented Bradstreet.

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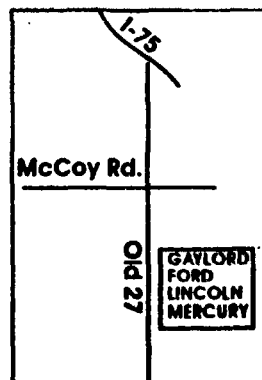
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Everything you ever needed to know about 911

Concluded from pg. 1-A

This schedule of information, showing automobile ownership, driving records, or criminal warrants outstanding, is drawn from state and nation-wide computer systems and hits the computer screen in the 911 office instantaneously.

Another important function maintained by the 911 system is that of residential and building locations by road, street or trail address. All buildings in Crawford County were assigned a specific address when the system was first implemented.

A sector map has been drawn of the county, and at the epicenter — or zero baseline — is the intersection of North Down River Road and Thendara Drive. This map contains the addresses on 1,659 roads and on 7,000 blocks.

From this center point, all 911 recording and dispatching is done. Nothing is left to chance and no guess work is usually required.

911 operator, Sue Medler said "Each road has a folder, and we know who's at what address." The system is nearly a complete census of the county's population.

When an address or name is fed into the computer, the information returned to the operator will instantly report which fire department, ambulance, police unit or other agency must be notified or dispatched.

The 911 system has identity files on who's living at that particular address. If the resident is wheelchair-bound or bedridden, that important information enables the responding agency to better interpret the needs at that address.

Where is 911?

In an obscure corner of a Crawford County government office, a handful of people (six full time employees and Akers, himself) average 307.6 incidents per hour. The two terminals are attended to 24-hours a day, including holidays.

Besides the traditional '911 calls' additional calls come from the Camp Grayling Provost Marshal, the courts, the prosecutor, and from the law division of the Department of Natural Resources. They are also in contact with the ambulance services and fire departments from Grayling, Beaver Creek, South Branch, Lovells and Frederic, as well as towing services and the U. S. Coast Guard.

The utility companies account for a large number of calls, and "when we have a storm, we get calls wanting to know how long the power will be off or how the roads are," said Akers. He shrugs when discussing these calls, and says the operators are often helpless to answer other than "I don't know."

"We get calls about the lack of garbage pickup, which barber shop do we recommend, where are the best buys for property in the area and why is the cable out?" The 911 operators do not consider these 'nuisance calls' but they are a hindrance to the functioning utility of the system.

It's not even uncommon for the 911 operators to be called by irate customers of the ambulance companies or of other services wondering why the bill is so large or why they got a bill at all. Akers even remembers getting a call regarding "the time zone we're in. We try to be agreeable, but when we're busy..."

The 911 benefits to the criminal justice are not only an emergency measure when a traffic stop or an arrest is made, but they serve as a creator of a 'paper trail'. This paper trail is often used at a later date when the case may come to trial, at which time, of course, the 911-generated information becomes invaluable.

The 911 system costs the average citizen of Crawford County pennies a month.

As can be expected, maintaining

this vast network of telephone numbers, addresses and a confounding criss-cross of county roads and trails, does not come cheap. But, when Crawford Emergency Central Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division.

No provision has been put in place to either continue these dollar contributions for equipment, or to contract with the agencies that use the system. It is estimated that by year end, with budget crunches looming everywhere, that even these sources of income will disappear or be greatly diminished.

"We have good equipment, don't get me wrong," said Akers, "but after seven years, everything needs to be upgraded." Fortunately, he said, GTE can install the equipment updates and revise the payment schedules to meet available funds.

In Gaylord, a similar funding gap exists: Their telephone levy expires this August.

The phone charge generated by 911 in Otsego County was \$193,000, but their director, Leroy Hall, stated recently that "it's not enough to maintain the system."

The Otsego 911 system is looking at a public service millage, which would be used to fund 911, fire and emergency services. This system has a current staff of 9 operators. But if they broke away from the State Police system, which has its own operators and is running an equal but quite different program, Hall feels that the benefits would be to both sides of the emergency response equation.

The people of Crawford County will have to make some serious decisions soon with regard to the continued operation of the 911 Emergency dispatch system. It is not a state mandate that we have such a system in the county, nor is it's existence guaranteed by fiat, declaration or other proclamation.

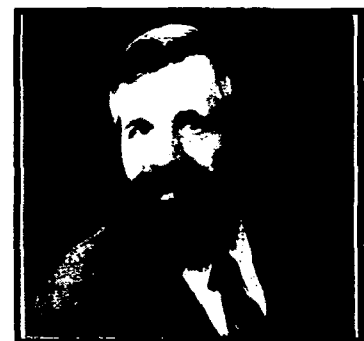
Dispatch was put into service six years ago, no operating millage was levied and only a small surcharge was added to the GTE phone bills of everyone in the county.

This transitory action by the Board of Commissioners was woefully inadequate then, and today these meager funds cannot begin to actually cover the costs of 911 in the future.

The stop-gap funding method, therefore, provided only a small amount of revenue — an estimated \$42,600. Against a total cost to operate the system of over \$280,000 1998, it couldn't come close to offsetting the true cost of maintaining an efficient, state-of-the-art 911 operation.

Initially, the cost of purchasing the equipment was born equally between the City of Grayling, the County, the townships, and the Michigan National Guard. Other contributing agencies are or have been the Michigan State Police, the Road Commission for Crawford County, and the Michigan

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Crawford County Road Commission outlines 1998 summer work program



DEALING WITH WINTER WEATHER — The Crawford County Road Commission had plenty to do following recent heavy snowfalls and ice storms. As the snow melts the Road Commission will trade its winter related activities for the various duties outlined in its summer work program. Driving the snow plow here is Russ Strohpaal. Photo by Shirley D. Schmook.

Concluded from pg. 1-A

work will depend on how much funding becomes available from outside sources, some of which include the Transit Authority, Grayling Township and the City of Grayling.

The most notable bridge work to be performed will be on Wilcox Bridge. The commission's specialized bridge crew will also perform maintenance as needed and as required by the bridge study that is done according to the Michigan Department of Transportation's bridge safety program.

Most of the Road Commission's summer activities fall under the category of "summer maintenance."

Road Commission workers perform over two dozen different routine tasks throughout the summer. These maintenance jobs include running the brine trucks to control dust, blading roads and placing blacktop patches on pavement.

The summer maintenance program is expected to result in the placement of approximately 500 tons of road patching.

The Road Commission will also coordinate with its State Foreman and Superintendent to complete such tasks as cleaning roadsides and rest areas, grass cutting, sweeping, post replacement, road shoulder blading and fence repair.

The Road Commission will also

respond to any road emergencies that might arise.

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Library is cleaned up through Operation Green Thumb

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

Retired quality control engineer, Dennis Ludwig now of Grayling, has signed with the Crawford County Library to sort and weed out old state documents, booklets, brochures and general information. Going through boxes of old literature "and getting some kind of system going here," is Ludwig's main objective. As a former technical data writer for General Dynamics in Warren,

Ludwig was selected by the Federal Government's Green Thumb Program to discard, catalogue or otherwise organize the mountains of documents sent to libraries regularly.

"Most of it is outdated and obsolete," he said, pointing to the boxes loaded for removal. When he's finished, the new system will allow easy access to the multitude of facts and data regarding Michigan, our Michigan.



THE ORGANIZER -- Dennis Ludwig of Grayling organizes the many current and obsolete Michigan and federal documents for the Crawford County Library. Photo by Shirley Schmoock

Poet Betsy Scholl to make an appearance at Kirtland

New England poet Betsy Scholl will be appearing at Kirtland Community College on Wednesday, April 1. Scholl will give a reading at 7:30 p.m. in the Continuing Education Center on College Drive.

The reading, which is part of the Controlled Burn Reading Series, is sponsored by Kirtland's Instructional Division and the college's English Department.

Just prior to the poetry reading Scholl will be participating in a question and answer session in Room 5 of Kirtland's Academic Building.

Betsy Scholl has written several books of poetry including *Rooms Overhead* and *Appalachian Winter*. Her two most recent books have each won major literary awards:

The Red Line won the Associated Writing Programs Poetry Prize in 1991. Scholl's *Don't Explain* received the Felix Pollack Prize from the University of Wisconsin Press in 1997.

Scholl, a resident of Maine, has

won numerous awards in addition to those given to her two latest books. Her work has appeared in magazines and literary journals in addition to her poetry compilations.

Betsy currently teaches at the University of Southern Maine.

"We're lucky to have somebody of her ability at the series. I think it's been the most diverse semester for our audience, and I think that they should be excited to have somebody like Betsy be a part of it. Her work is excellently crafted and passionate. Also, I think her work will excite the imagination and ear of the audience. I've admired her work for a long time," said series coordinator Gerry LaFemina of Scholl.

Copies of Scholl's books will be available for purchase following the reading. Scholl will be present for book signing and conversation.

For more information regarding the poetry reading or the Controlled Burn Reading Series contact LaFemina at 517-275-5121 ext. 376.

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March story hour is a big hit with pre-school crowd

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

Crawford County Librarian Tracie Compton has no trouble keeping the attention of a dozen or so wide-eyed pre-schoolers.

Mrs. Compton patiently explains the importance of the month of March, and the rapt attention they're paying to her every word probably has something to do with the Leprechaun stories she's promised to tell.

Story hour is a weekly event at the library, and though it's usually called on account of the weather, it wasn't called last week. It was, after all, St. Patrick's Day and the "snakes had to be driven out of the whole library!"

The children banged and rattled

noise makers to ensure that, before story hour could continue, it was

important to "get them all out of here!"

Smart man, St. Patrick. Smart librarian, Mrs. Compton.



MARCH STORY HOUR — Crawford County Librarian Tracie Compton discusses March happenings with pre-schoolers during weekly story hour. (left to right) Compton, Bill Buckles, Bob Buckles, Arthur Kerle, Mathew Kerle. Photo by Shirley D. Schmoock.

FREDERIC LIBRARY NEWS

The Bradford Lake Association donated to the Ursula Piper memorial. A book has been ordered in her memory and her name has been placed on our memorial plaque.

The Bradford Lake Association donated to the Eva Parker memorial. A book has been ordered in memory of Eva, and her name has been placed on our memorial plaque.

Rex and Marilyn Alma, Rose Duley-Gleason, and Kelly Verlinde donated to the Bobbi Jo Hinkle memorial. A book has been ordered in her memory, and her name will be placed on our

memorial plaque.

The following people donated to the Norma Madill memorial: Maryda & Carlyl Mead, Wayne & Kathi Black, Jean T. Potter, Paul & Pauline Henion, Frances I. Hebel, Kathleen E. Anderson, Muriel Leng, The Frederic Hobby Club, Dr. P.A. Juntilla, Loreli M. Haddad, Leo & Helma Post, and Howard & Thelma Madsen. Several books have been ordered in memory of Norma and her name has been placed on our memorial plaque.

The Frederic Hobby Club and Ken & Merna Newberry donated to the

RoseMary (Alma) Bradstreet memorial. A book has been ordered in memory of RoseMary, and her name has been placed on our memorial plaque.

The Frederic Hobby Club and Ken & Merna Newberry donated to the Grace Germain memorial. A book has been ordered in her memory and her name has been placed on our memorial plaque.

Muriel Leng donated to the Melvin Griffith memorial. A book has been ordered in his memory and his name has been placed on our memorial plaque.

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Eleanor L. Holtcamp

Eleanor L. Holtcamp, 81, of Grayling, passed away March 23, 1998 at Mercy Hospital, Grayling.

She was born in Toledo, Ohio to Jerome and Gladys (Folk) Weber on Jan. 4, 1917.

Mrs. Holtcamp resided in Grayling for 51 years, coming here from Toledo. She was formerly employed at the Bear Archery Company and also at the Black and White Grocery Store, Grayling.

She is survived by her sons: Edward and Barbara Holtcamp of Grayling, and Ronald and Rita Holtcamp of Traverse City; daughters: Jean and William Weaver of Grayling, and Charleen "Cookie" and Larry Ostrowski of Grayling; sisters: Agnes Updegraff of Toledo, Ohio, and Grace and Jack Heninger of Toledo, Ohio; 15 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two grandchildren: Rodney James Holtcamp, and Kimberly Steele; and by her parents, Jerome and Gladys (Folk) Weber.

Memorial service will be held Saturday, March 28, 1998 at 11 a.m. at Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church with Rev. J. Douglas Paterson officiating.

Ralph E. Sager

Ralph E. Sager, 68, of Arcadia, Fla., passed away, Wednesday, March 18, 1998 at Arcadia, Fla.

Mr. Sager was born in Saginaw, Mich. Mr. Sager had resided in Arcadia since October of 1997 formerly of Clio, Mich. Mr. Sager had been a salesman for an industrial supply company prior to his retirement. He was a member of Salina Masonic Lodge #155 F&AM., Work Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Royal Order of Jesters and Red Cross of Constantine all of Saginaw, Mich., a member of Recreation Fishing Club of Grayling, Mich. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1949 to 1954.

Survivors include his parents, Abner C. and Evelyn F. Sager of Arcadia, Fla.; sister, Shirley Ann Kraatz of Saginaw, Mich.; and two nieces.

No funeral services will be scheduled.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: Cleveland United Methodist Church Building Fund, 28038 Cleveland Ave., Cleveland, Fla. 33982 or Hospice of S.W. Florida, 3028 Caring Way, Suite #2, Port Charlotte, Fla. 33952.

Card Of Thanks

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to all for the sympathetic cards, beautiful flowers, comforting words, delicious food, and the many thoughts and prayers during the recent loss of our loved one. A special thanks is extended to Sister Rosemary, Dr. Korneli, Dr. Faghiniha, CCU staff and our coworkers, neighbors and friends

The Family of Lon Crowell

Mary C. Febey Dahm

Mary C. Febey Dahm, 92, of Grayling, passed away March 19, 1998 at The Meadows of Grayling.

She was born in Chicago, Ill., to Peder and Cecelia (Cuculich) Blazovich on Nov. 21, 1905.

Mrs. Dahm moved to Grayling 15 years ago from Chicago. She was a homemaker and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grayling.

She is survived by son, Richard and Barbara Febey of Grayling; grandchildren: Karen Sue Febey of Oak Park, Ill., Timothy William Febey of London, England, and Amanda Jane Febey of Grayling.

Mrs. Dahm was preceded in death by her first husband, Al Febey; her second husband, Larry Dahm; her parents, Peder and Cecelia Blazovich.

Mass of Christian burial was held Monday, March 23, 1998 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Grayling, with Rev. Robert W. Nalley officiating. Burial will take place in the spring in Elmwood Cemetery, Grayling.

Card Of Thanks

The family of Esther Hall would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, gifts and visits.

To all the caring nurses at Mercy Hospital, to Dr. Rosi and his staff, Derek McEvers and Dave.

To preachers Shane Brown and Peter Mousseau, and all the ladies of the church, for the special lunch. God Bless all!

Shirley, Bonnie & Tootie

Jeannette T. Sell

Jeannette T. Sell, 76, of Monroe, Mich. passed away at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 1998 in Mercy Memorial Hospital's emergency room. She had been in poor health for two years.

She was born in Riverview to Frederick and Mable (Rushlow) LaFee on Feb. 28, 1922.

She married Lawrence R. Sell on Nov. 9, 1940 in Taylor. Mrs. Sell was a resident of Grayling from 1976 to 1993. She was employed at various doctor offices as a medical assistant for 20 years before retiring in 1980. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her husband, Lawrence; a son, Frederick L. of Boynton Beach, Fla.; a daughter, Mrs. Tom (Marcia L.) Rakestraw of Ottawa Lake; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Sell was preceded in death by two brothers and four sisters.

Services were at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 21, 1998 in the Rupp Funeral Home with Rev. Stanley AuBuchon, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Monroe, officiating. Burial was at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church funeral luncheon fund.

William Kent Norris

William Kent Norris of Grayling passed away March 24, 1998 in Florida.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 28, 1998 at Sorenson Funeral Home, McEvers Chapel.

Carol Sieloff

Carol Sieloff, 55, of Grayling, passed away March 23, 1998 at The Meadows of Grayling.

She was born in Wyandotte to Steven and Stella Skarina on June 18, 1942.

Mrs. Sieloff had been coming to Crawford County since 1964 and moved here 14 years ago from Wyandotte. She was formerly employed as a clerical worker in the health care industry.

She is survived by her husband, Jack W. Sieloff of Grayling; daughter, Jacki and Tom Predhome of Wyandotte; son, Jason and Joan Sieloff of Wyandotte; mother, Stella Skarina of Wyandotte and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Sieloff was preceded in death by her father, Steven Skarina; brother, Robert Skarina; mother-in-law, Agnes Sieloff; and father-in-law, Jack Sieloff.

No services have been scheduled.



June 13, 1941-February 13, 1998

The family of the late Hazel H. Halstead acknowledges with deep appreciation every one's kind expression of sympathy throughout the recent loss of our mother and Grandmother.

Claude and Kelly Halstead, Maile-Brylize, Shawn and Joanne Krayes, Shane and Sha-Lin, Janolua and Michelle Tagovailoa, Jocelyn.

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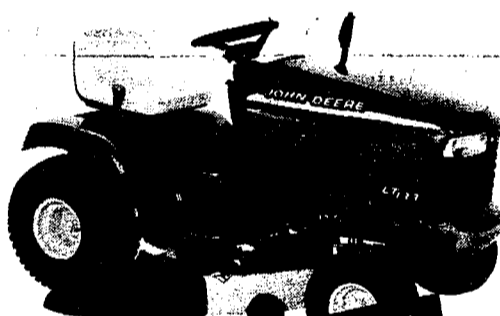
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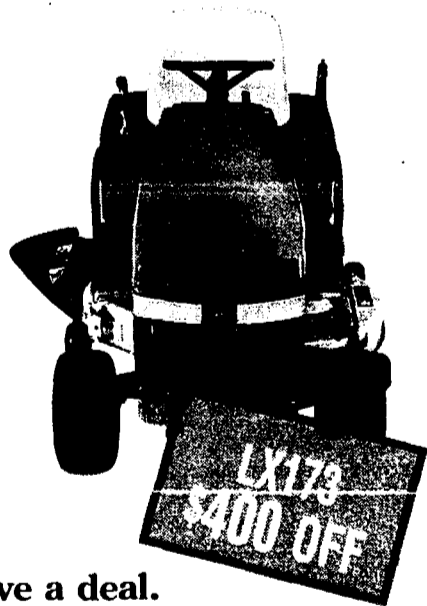
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Friday - 6:30 pm

Grayling Eagles

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Eagles Club, 602 Huron Grayling

Saturday - 6:30 pm

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Parish, Marsh Wed

On Saturday, March 14, 1998, Robert H. Marsh and Judy A. Parish were married by Reverend Carter Garrigues-Cortelyou. The 4:30 p.m. ceremony took place at the Churchill United Methodist Church in West Branch. The brides daughters, Kendra Potter, Karolyn Kratky and Karen Foster were her attendants. Her son Kyle Parish presented the bride. The groom's sons Harold, Steven, David and Robert attended their father. The Best Man was Albert Huff. The reception was held at the Quality Inn in West Branch. The couple both work for the Michigan Department of Corrections, she as a Lieutenant at Camp Lehman Correctional Facility and he is a Sergeant at Standish Maximum Correctional Facility. The newlyweds will make their home in West Branch.

Heating bill assistance program seeking donations

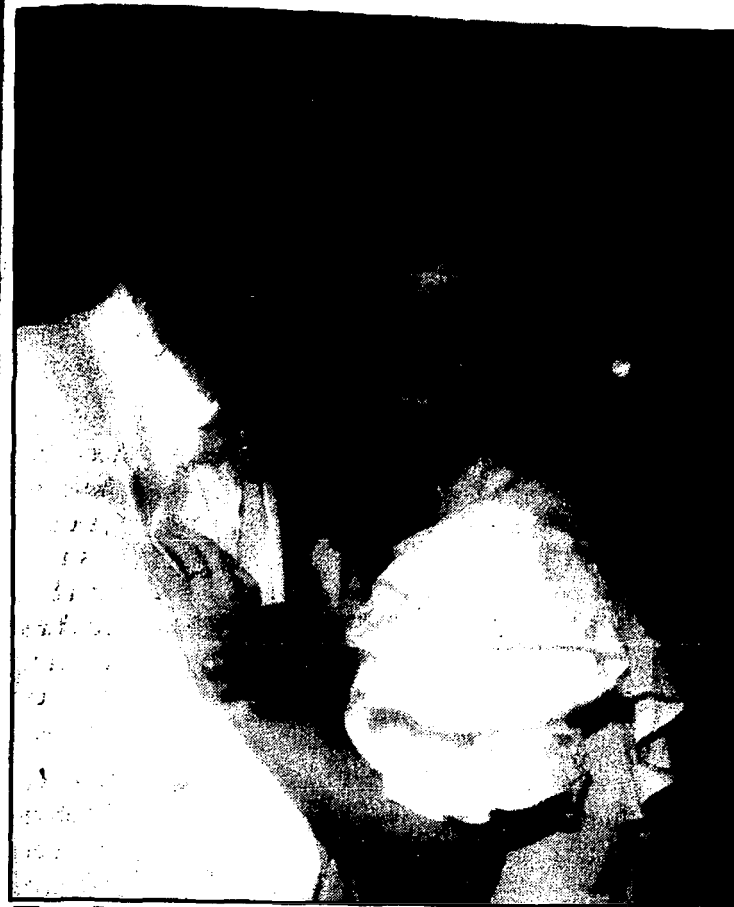
While mild weather has eased winter's blow this year in Michigan, many state residents still need emergency assistance from the PeopleCare program, according to The Salvation Army and Consumer Energy.

Giving to the emergency needs assistance program is down this year, perhaps due to the perception that milder winter weather has lessened the burden on low-income residents. However, many of our neighbors still face financial problems associated with unemployment, single parenting, disability or other unfortunate life circumstances.

"Our motto for our 1998 campaign is, 'Make It Happen,'" said Debbie Laskovich, PeopleCare administrator for Consumers Energy. "We ask Michigan residents to consider the needs of their less fortunate neighbors and be generous with their financial assistance and volunteer efforts," said Laskovich.

PeopleCare contributions are disbursed by the Salvation Army and are used for a variety of emergency needs applications. For many recipients, the PeopleCare program is their last avenue of hope.

Contributions to PeopleCare can be mailed to: PeopleCare, 212 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson, MI 49201.



DeHart, Bokhart wed

On Nov. 29, 1997, Lena L. DeHart and James R. Bokhart, Jr. were married by Father Robert Nalley at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grayling. Lena is the daughter of Michelle Haskin and John Dannenberg, both of Grayling. James is the son of James and Betty Bokhart of Bay City.

Maid of honor was Lindsay VanAmburg; bridesmaids were: Connie Zalucha, Sherry Whitney, Geri

Olson, Jeannie Thomas, Scarlett Mahar; Ashley Zalucha was a junior bride.

Jerry Gauthier was best man while the groomsmen were: Matt Timm, Terry Nephew, Rob Morrill, John Beyer, Emil Claerhout; Keven Whitney was junior groom. The ushers were Dan Whitney and Larry Zalucha. The host and hostess were Richard and Kathy Chesney.

MILITARY NEWS

Timothy G. Sheldon, a member of the 1071st Maintenance Company, was promoted to Sergeant, E-5, by Captain Mike Morang, unit commander of the 1071st Maintenance Company on March 15, 1997.

Sergeant Sheldon's major occupation skill is a 45K, tank turret repairer, and has been a member of the 1071st and Michigan National Guard for 15 years.

Sergeant Sheldon is employed as a federal technician at the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) in Grayling.

He and his wife, Kathie live in Grayling and have one daughter, Sydnee. Tim is the son of Del and Love Sheldon of Grayling.

Perry L. Papendick, a member of the 1071st Maintenance Company, was promoted to Sergeant, E-6, by Captain Mike Morang, unit commander of the 1071st Maintenance Company on March 15, 1997.

Staff Sergeant Perry's major occupation skill is a 54B, nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) non-commissioned officer in charge, and has been a member of the 1071st and the Michigan National Guard for 12 years.

Staff Sergeant Papendick is a graduate of Grayling High School, and is employed as a construction worker in the Grayling area.

Perry is the son of Clarence and Delorse Papendick of Grayling.

Bruce Dale, a member of the 1071st Maintenance Company, was commissioned as a Warrant Officer on Nov. 7, 1997.

As a Warrant Officer Candidate, Mr. Dale was instructed in the history of the Warrant Officer corps, the structure of the Army, the Army Maintenance Management System, and Army leadership. This took place at Ft. Rucker, Ala., for a period of four weeks of intensive mental and physical training.

Mr. Dale's new responsibility is being the maintenance technician for the track vehicle maintenance platoon, in which members of the track platoon will receive his assistance with technical problems regarding maintenance.

Prior to his commissioning, Dale was a Sergeant First Class in the track vehicle maintenance platoon, where he served as a section chief. Mr. Dale has been a member of the armed forces for 18 years.

Mr. Dale is employed as the work leader of the rebuild section at the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) in Grayling.

Mr. Dale lives in Grayling with his wife Doreena and two children, Bruce and Colleen.

Dale T. Ellis, a member of the 1071st Maintenance Company was commissioned as a Warrant Officer

on March 6, 1998, with the prestigious honor of being the Distinguished Honor Graduate for class #98-003.

As a Warrant Officer Candidate, Mr. Ellis was instructed in the history of the Warrant Officer corps, the Army doctrine, the Army Maintenance Management System, and the Army leadership. This took place at Ft. Rucker, Ala., for a period of four weeks of intensive mental and physical training from Feb. 6 through March 6.

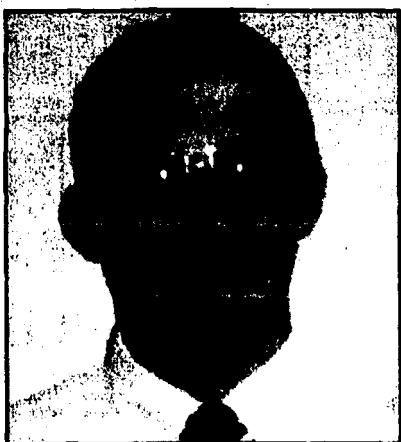
Mr. Ellis' new responsibility is being the maintenance technician for the Signal Systems/Communication maintenance platoon, in which members of the platoon will receive his assistance with technical problems regarding maintenance.

Prior to his commissioning, Ellis was a Staff Sergeant with the Installation Support Unit (ISU), now the Maneuver Training Center (MTC), where he served as a communications/electrical repairer.

Mr. Ellis is employed as the Calibration Technician at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) in Lansing. He lives in Dewitt with his wife, Jennifer, and 2-year old son Derek. Mr. Ellis is a 1986 graduate of Mio AuSable High School, and the son of Douglas and Ellen Ellis of Mio.

Melissa Sampsel, a member of the 1071st Maintenance Company was promoted to Private E-2 on February 22, 1998. Private Sampsel is a 92A-supply specialist, and will be attending Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training this summer after her graduation from Grayling High School.

Brian Johnson has joined Grayling Ford's professional sales team.



Brian Johnson

Brian has resided in Grayling for 4 1/2 years and is married to Shannon Moran and have 4 children. Stop in and see Brian for the best buys and service you deserve.

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School.

In addition to being a member of the Michigan National Guard, Melissa is also employed by McDonald's of Grayling. Sampsel lives in Grayling with her parents, Jim and Glenda.

Marine Pvt. Ronald E. Ross, son of Ronald E. and Rhonda J. Ross of Roscommon, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

Ross successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Ross joins 41,000 men and women who will enter the Marine Corps this year from all over the country.

He is a 1997 graduate of Roscommon High School.



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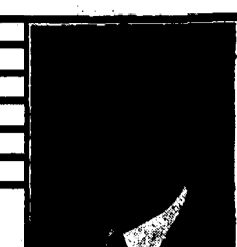
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Rhonda, Marcy & Alice

Roystons chosen as 1998 Habitat for Humanity recipients

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

Vicki Royston of Grayling has been selected by the Habitat for Humanity Family Selection Committee to receive the organization's second home in the area.

"I couldn't stop crying when they told me. I was so happy," said Royston. "I cried when I talked to my mom and told her, and everyone I tell, well...I just start crying again, it's so wonderful."

Royston and son Lance, a ninth grade student at Grayling High School, will soon have their hands full of hammers, nails and everything else that goes into building a home.

The Roystons will commit 250 hours — sweat equity, it's called — and then pay monthly payments, including taxes and insurance, on an interest-free mortgage.

"Lance is so excited," said Royston, the full-time store manager for the St. Francis Thrift Shop on M72 West in Grayling. "He's taking shop and building trades in school, and he's so anxious to get started with what he's learned."

And what does Lance think about the whole matter?

"I want my own closet — a big one!"

Lance has many hobbies, which include "tinkering and building things." He also enjoys archery and is in Boy Scouts. His penchant for tinkering should come in mighty handy, and he "can hardly wait to get started."



NEW HOMEOWNER-TO-BE — The Crawford County Board for Habitat for Humanity hands Vicki Royston the official contract for Habitat homeownership. From left are Deb Glicker, Chair for the Nurturing Committee; Lisa Burmeister, Nurturing Committee member assigned to the Roystons; Grace Feldhauser, Chairman of the Family Selection Committee; Vicki Royston, Lance Royston and Naomi Holysko, Chair of the Crawford County Board for Habitat for Humanity.

Photo by Shirley D. Schmoock

Vicki was born and raised in Grayling, and her parents are Les and Marlene Goss.

Mr. Goss retired from the local school system, and Mrs. Goss just retired from Mercy Hospital in November. Both are very eager to help Vicki and Lance with their "equity hours".

Vicki says she's still "in a cloud," but, is busily planning, in her head, the colors of the rooms.

"I've never had a new house, and it's still hard to believe."

Registration for annual 4-H Exploration Days has begun

Registration for Exploration Days 1998 at Michigan State University is underway. The event is open to youth ages 12 and over. It is not necessary to be a member of 4-H in order to sign up.

This year's Exploration Days will take place on June 24-26.

There will be over 150 learning sessions and entertainment events, including swimming, bowling, dance, canoeing, a Planetarium show, skating, Museum visits and an Awards

Ceremony.

The fee for a full-time participant is \$120, which includes all meals; shared lodging and the activities.

A \$20 state scholarship is available, and Glen's slips money can be used to help finance the trip. The local 4-H will also be conducting fund raisers for the event.

To register or for more information call the 4-H Crawford County extension at 344-3264.

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SENIOR CITIZEN NEWS

by Jan Farley

Special thought for the week: Never explain...your friends don't need it and your enemies will not believe it!

Happenings at the Center and announcements of things to come: Pantry Bingo every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. We are starting a Euchre club on Tuesdays at 12:30; come one, come all! Also, anyone out there that likes to play Bridge, they play on Mondays at 1 p.m., please give us a call because we always need a fourth and if we get enough "fourths" there will be another table! Give us a buzz at 348-7123 for either card game. Blood pressures and sugars taken on the 26th from 11 to noon; SHARE pick-up on the 27th at the Latter Days Saints Church on N. Down River Rd. from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Getting into April; "BK" Bingo on the 1st at 5:30. Note change of time now for the longer daylight hours. Lucky 7 Casino trip on the 2nd and we have a new pool table and want everyone to come take advantage of it, especially on Thursdays, morning and afternoons. We have a lot of other "action" games, as well; ping-pong, darts, and shuffleboard so there would be plenty to do on Thursday. All you have to do is come on in! Our Easter dinner will be held on the 7th at 5 p.m. and we'll be serving a very special ham dinner. Dance with Tina following the Easter dinner; then on the 8th is Commodities day from 10 to 11 at the Free Methodist Church. Funfest is the same day at 12:00 with

friends coming from the various nursing homes for lunch and fun & games following. Birthday dinner at 5 on the 8th also and the RSVP white elephant auction at 5:30. (Lots happening on that one day!) Blood pressures and sugars taken on the 9th from 11 until noon and the Center will be closed on Good Friday, the 10th.

Congregate meals are served at noon and 5 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and at noon only on Friday. Fruit and vegetable salad bar on Tuesday; Soup served on Monday and Wednesday and bread, juice and milk offered each meal. Please try to make a reservation if you can by calling 348-7123. Menus are subject to change without notice.

Lunch/Dinner:

March

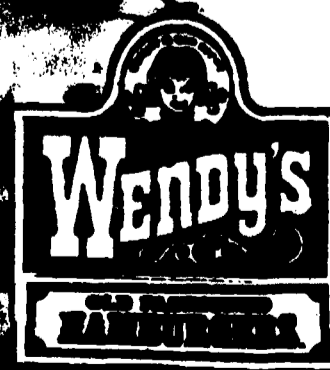
- 25 - Roast Beef / Roast Chicken
 - 26 - Stuffed Peppers / Tuna & Noodles casserole
 - 27 - Ham Steak / no dinner
 - 30 - Hamburg & Cheese Noodles / Veal Birds
 - 31 - Kielbasa & Kraut / Fish
- April
- 1 - Beef Stroganoff / Parmesan Chicken
 - 2 - Pot Roast / Liver & Onions
 - 3 - Baked Ham / no dinner
 - 6 - Roast Pork / Fish Fillets
 - 7 - Stuffed Turkey / Easter Dinner
 - 8 - Chicken & Biscuits / BBQ Pork
 - 9 - Ham Loaf / Roast Beef
 - 10 - Center Closed - Good Friday

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NOTES NORTHERN

**INSIDE:
Classifieds
Feature**

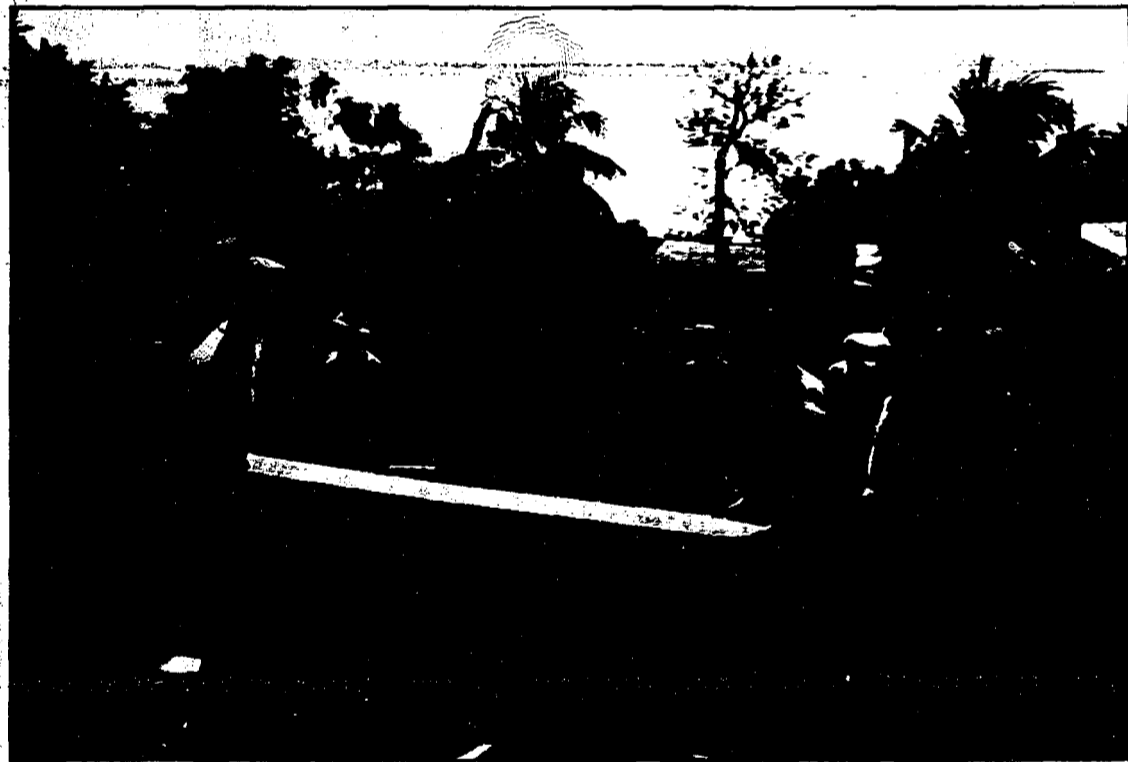
Section B - C

Doing God's work in Central America

McClain and Matthews find church mission rewarding



A DAY AT THE BEACH -- Scott McClain spends a day on a Pacific coast beach where he visits with young children who sell candy, red clay pottery, handmade dolls, newspapers and anything that will earn money for their families. McClain was disappointed to find the ocean water too polluted for a refreshing swim. At least he enjoyed an escape from the midday heat in the shade provided by the thatched roof of a beachside portico.



CONCRETE COMPADRES -- Pat Long, left, of Mesick, shares the load of moving a 150 lb. pre-fabricated concrete wall panel onto the new church site with Scott McClain, right. Male residents of the barrios helped with site preparation and construction by serving as welders, mud mixers and tampers.



BEAUTIFUL BOWS -- The ladies who live the barrios learned how to make colorful paper twist ribbon swags to brighten up their humble homes in Managua. They chose purple, blue, teal and peach shaded ribbon for their projects.

by Cheryl A. Ruley
Staff Writer

For two weeks in February, Grayling residents, Kay Matthews and Scott McClain, along with 24 other members of various Michigan-based Free Methodist churches, travelled to the barrios of Managua, Nicaragua to build churches for the benefit of hundreds of poverty-stricken people.

Known by many to be a dangerous drug and gang infested area of the world, missionary groups have been hesitant to travel to this Central American country.

While in Managua the group was lodged in a Baptist-run compound, surrounded by 15-foot, razor wire-topped walls and guard dogs, just in case someone would get past the razor wire.

Braving 100 degree temperatures, high humidity, colossal cockroaches, biting ants and "unidentifiable food", the group set out to share the Gospel and build two churches that would also serve as school buildings.

Nicaragua is burdened with a 46 percent literacy rate and, according to Matthews, it is only because there is a lack of paper and pencils.

"Anyone who gets an education attends a private school and not many can afford that," said Matthews.

All these details may seem quite trying, but those who volunteered for the trip have a lot of touching stories and fond memories.

Local builder Scott McClain said he will never forget the little one-year old girl called "Gorda" (fat in Spanish), who never cried and couldn't yet walk.

Every time McClain saw the girl with her mother he would offer to hold her and talk to her.

Gorda's mother is single with four children, an all too common situation in the barrios.

One day Gorda's mother asked McClain if he would take Gorda to live with him, because she knew the

little one would be loved and have many advantages living in the United States.

It nearly broke his heart.

Matthews spoke of Pastor Steve Scott of the Evert Free Methodist Church and how he gave his shoes to a Nicaraguan welder because there were almost no soles left to the pair he was wearing.

This same welder found out that the barrio's church minister, Pastor Luis, though small in stature, was very big in authority and kicked the welder out of the new church building when he arrived drunk and obnoxious.

"The welder towered over Pastor Luis but he knew the pastor meant business," said Matthews.

Matthews spoke very fondly of an old woman that she met who wore an old faded beach towel as a shawl. "She was so proud of her 'shawl' and never took it off. She really seemed to treasure the beach towel."

While the men were busy building 30 by 60-foot pre-fabricated concrete panel churches, replacing the small wooden, concrete and corrugated metal structures, the women volunteers travelled from barrio to barrio, holding meetings for the women and children.

The meetings included crafts, biblical stories and music. The response was overwhelming and soon the workers were teaching the virtue of patience to the villagers. Getting them into a single file line was a chore.

The women made paper ribbon bow swags secured to a ruler supplied by Wolohan Lumber.

"They were so proud of themselves and happy that they had something to decorate their homes with," Matthews said. "They will use anything for decoration. An old picture of Santa Claus was hanging in one house."

They also learned to make beaded bracelets and necklaces. The beads came in zip-loc bags which the bar-

rios' women collected and treated as though they were quite valuable.

The children came in droves and volunteers organized them into age groups. Some of the children tried to pass themselves off as another age so that they could take advantage of all the activities, leaving some children out of the fun.

Matthews said once the situation was realized the volunteers "color coded the kids" by giving them different colored long shoelaces to wear as necklaces in an effort to keep tabs on any "repeats".

The Nicaraguans are blessed with year-round warm weather, perfect for growing mangos, avocados and bananas. Although, along with the staples of rice and beans, the natives enjoy a healthy diet, they have parasites to deal with from untreated water and medical facilities are antiquated, at best.

Entire families travel to the bleak clinics provided by the Nicaraguan government.

The country's doctors were recently on strike, protesting their \$200 monthly salary and demanding it be increased to \$2,000 per month. No word on the outcome.

Matthews was surprised at the extent of the pharmacy at one clinic. "They had more available than I expected and at a third of the price that we pay here in this country."

McClain and Matthews both stated that it seemed the people of the barrios are fairly happy and very grateful for what little they have and appreciate everything given to them, especially their new churches.

As soon as one of the churches was finished a service was held and 175 people attended.

The volunteer group left behind two electric keyboards and an Ibanez guitar for use in the new churches.

The work the volunteers performed was exhausting and Matthews said that she and others were grateful for that because the group would be too exhausted to complain about their spartan surroundings at the compound.

"We only had enough energy to name and tally up our roommates, the two-inch cockroaches," joked Matthews. "Thank goodness we were in Nicaragua during the dry season and we didn't have mosquitoes to deal with."

McClain plans to travel to the American Southwest next winter to help out the Native Americans. Matthews may travel back to Central America to help the Panamanian people.



Photos submitted by Kay Matthews

REAL CUTIE -- "Gorda's" mother, above, holds her tight as her big sister looks on, holding the paper flowers made during a craft workshop taught by the women volunteers. The single mother of four asked McClain to take "Gorda" back to America for a better life. No one is sure what the baby's true name is but she is affectionately referred to by the Spanish word for fat because of her chubbiness



LA ROPA ESPECIAL -- Kay Matthews, left, gives this abuela (grandmother) a friendly embrace. Around the abuela's shoulders is a faded beach towel she uses as a shawl.

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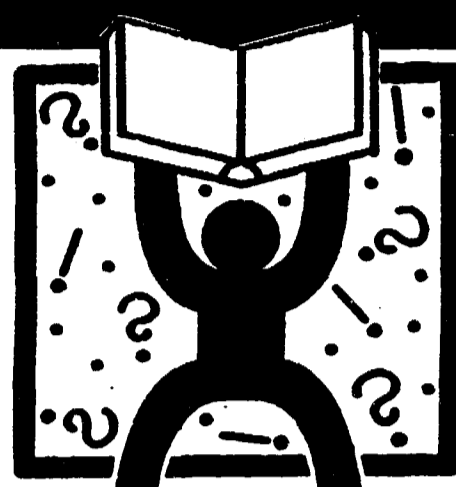
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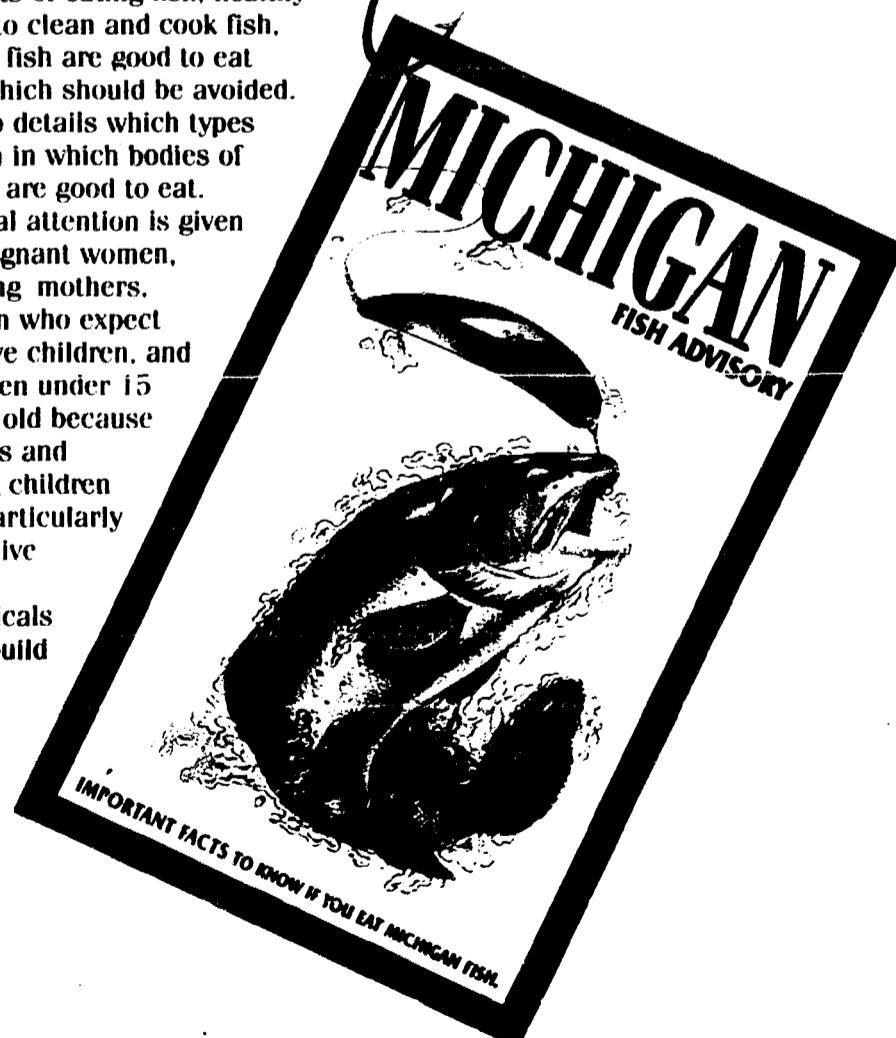
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Grayling Middle School wrestlers gain success by learning

The rigors of a Grayling Viking Wrestling Coach demand dedication and patience. After working an eight of more hour a day regular job, the Coach spends two hours each day during the week teaching his young men the fundamentals in the sport of wrestling. Then, every Saturday for two months, the coach wakes up at 5 a.m. or earlier to take his wrestlers to various tournaments in Northern Michigan and returns home in early evening.

Sundays are reserved for compiling statistics and planning the next week's regiment.

The Grayling Middle School Head Coach is Joe Ferrigan and he has led some 60 Viking wrestlers age five to 14 to seven tournaments thus far in 1998. Usually competing against eight to 10 teams per tournament, Ferrigan maintains a steady flow during the organized chaos in these gyms on Saturdays.

With help from his array of assistant coaches, Ferrigan calmly arranges each of his wrestlers to participate for three to five matches per day in a noisy gym crowded by over 1,500 spectators and 400-500 opposing wrestlers, coaches, scorekeepers and referees.

Coach Ferrigan has maintained his thrust of teaching wrestling skills though all of his hours of supervision by congratulating the victors and consoling the defeated. The moves, holds, and confidence of his wrestlers exemplify the teaching process for all to see at the tournaments.

In addition to the nine sixth, seventh and eighth grade wrestlers sporting winning records, several Vikings have shown consistent improvements with their "placements" during the current year.

While Middle School wrestling is scored based upon individual competition, the Grayling coaches have emphasized the team nature of the sport that is critical to high school wrestling. Most every match has at least one teammate helping the coach bark instructions to their fellow wrestler during the brief, but strenuous exercise.

Thus, regardless of win-loss records or tournament placements, all Viking wrestlers contribute to the team's success.

Viking Middle School wrestlers who have consistently participated during the course of the year include the following:

Mike Gassman - sixth grade. Gassman has three third places and is in only his first year.

Adam Malone - sixth grade. Malone has placed in all of the tournaments this year with one first place, four second places, and two third place medals.

Darryl Babbitt - sixth grade. Babbitt suffered a broken hand in West Branch and was lost for the season. Before his injury, Babbitt garnered three first place medals in a row.

Dan Snider - sixth grade. Snider has shown improvement during the course of the year and has three recent third place medals.

Travis Gildner - sixth grade. Gildner has six victories to his credit and placed second in the Roscommon Tournament.

Zak Van Nuck - sixth grade. Van Nuck has four first place medals to his credit and has placed in all but one of the tournaments.

Dustin Partello - sixth grade. Partello has won two first place and two second place medals while wrestling in a heavier weight class.

Jesse CdeBaca - sixth grade. CdeBaca has two second place medals on the season including a solid performance at the Grayling Tournament.

Brandon Pratt - sixth grade. Pratt has the most Viking wins with 21 and has lost only one match this year. He has six first place medals to top his lone second place finish.

Eric Hunter - seventh grade. Hunter has placed in four tournaments and is one of the hardest Vikings to pin.

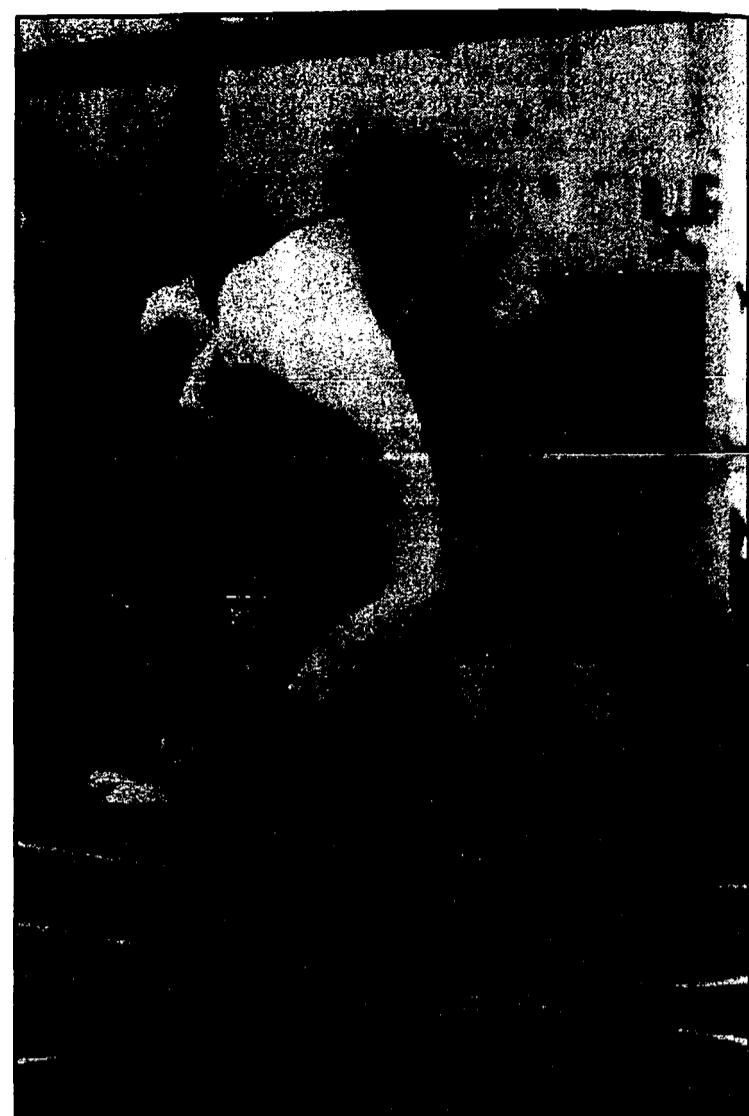
Ryan Messerschmidt - seventh grade. Messerschmidt has amassed seven victories on the season and finished in second place at the Gladwin tournament.

Chris Johns - seventh grade. Known as "gonzo" to his teammates, Chris has only one loss marring his record this year. His 20 victories are second on the team and he has six first place medals.

Roy Middleton - seventh grade. Roy drew probably the toughest matches all year in the 145 pound weight class. Wrestling against mostly eighth grades, Middleton has still managed to win two third place medals over the course of the year.

Andy Palmer - eighth grade. Palmer has also received a medal every tournament with two first place, four second places, and one third place finish. Because of low weight, Palmer is expected to have an immediate impact in high school next year as a freshman.

Larry Baynham - eighth grade. Baynham is another wrestler high school coaches will be looking forward to. He has earned three first place and three second place medals while competing in the difficult 130 pound weight class. Last Saturday in West Branch, Baynham's best match of the year was a loss in a close decision to an



OFF THE GROUND -- Larry Baynham lifts his opponent for a take down at a Gladwin meet.



IN CONTROL -- Nate Haskel gets the upper hand at last week's tournament in West Branch.

All-State Champion from Davidson.

Nick Hurd - eighth grade. Hurd has been a consummate team player all year. He gained a fourth place finish at West Branch and will continue wrestling along with football in high school.

Chris Malone - eighth grade. Malone had four medals on the year and had his best performance at the Grayling Tournament. Malone beat a tough Standish opponent in Grayling to capture the third place medal. Malone also expects to play football and wrestle in high school next year.

Chris McGuire - eighth grade. The most improved wrestler since the beginning of the year, McGuire has four second place medals to his credit. He has beaten two first place medal winners during the year and has nine

total victories.

Nate Haskel - eighth grade. Haskel remains undefeated on the year while holding a 20-0 win-loss record. He has six first place medals and missed one tournament because of a band concert. Seventeen of Haskel's wins have been by pins and his closest match was a 5-0 decision against a wrestler from Midland.

Juell Joseph - eighth grade. Joseph is another football player making his debut in wrestling. Joseph's best tournament of the year was in Grayling where he gained a second place medal.

Billy Partello - eighth grade. Partello is also in his first year of wrestling and had gained valuable experience while in middle school. He finished in third place at the Grayling Tournament and, with the help of his father, Butch Partello, expects to improve in high school.



JUNIOR HIGH MATMEN -- The Grayling Middle School Wrestling Team: (front row, left to right) Ryan Messerschmidt, Charlie Williams, Eric Hunter, Adam Malone, Zach VanNuck, Jesse CdeBaca. (middle row, left to right) Nick Hurd, Billy Partello, Dusty Partello, Dan Snider, Travis Gildner, Mike Gassman, Brandon Pratt. (back row, left to right) Andy Palmer, Chris Malone, Chris McGuire, Nate Haskel, Larry Baynham, Chris Johns. The wrestlers will take part in their last meet of the season this weekend at the Benzie Central Tournament.

YOUTH BOWLING LEAGUE

Action League

Men in Black.....	27-9
Strike 2 Judgments.....	24-12
J.C.'s 1st Strikers.....	22-14
Lethal Weapons.....	19-17
Natural Born Killers.....	18-18
Kung Fu Mania.....	12-24
Women in Black.....	12-24
Phantoms.....	10-26
High Game: Male: N. McNamar, 210;	
Female: N. Strohpaal, 227.	
High Series: Male: N. Sloan, 437;	
Female: N. Strohpaal, 487.	
Most Pins over Average: Male: N.	
McNamar, 94; Female: N. Strohpaal,	
87.	
Most Pins over Series: Male: K.	
Roman, 127; Female: N. Strohpaal,	
67.	

Cartoon League

Goose Bumps.....	19-8
Flintstones.....	16.5-10.5
Ninja's.....	16-11
Aristocats.....	14.5-12.5
Looney Tunes.....	14-13
Scooby Doo's.....	13-14
Rug Rats.....	8-19
3 Stooges.....	7-20
High Game: Male: J. Dreasky, 174;	
Female: B. Yanniello, 113.	
High Series: Male: J. Dreasky, 309;	
Female: B. Yanniello, 205.	
Most Pins over Average: Male: J.	
Dreasky, 77; Female: B. Turner, 67.	
Most Pins over Series: Male: J.	
Dreasky, 18; Female: B. Turner, 43.	

Comedy League

Wild Natures.....	18-9
Black Sheep.....	17-10
Spy's.....	16-11
Tin Cups.....	16-11
Paul Bearers.....	15-12
Nutty Professors.....	11-16
Clerk's.....	10-17
Space Jammers.....	5-22
High Game: Male: K. Fedak, 141;	
Female: K. Davis, 144.	
High Series: Male: K. Fedak, 250;	
Female: K. Davis, 249.	
Most Pins over Average: Male: M.	
Lobsinger, 48; Female: K. Davis, M.	
Mathey, 41.	
Most Pins over Series: Male: 0;	
Female: M. Mathey, 16.	

ALL-EVENTS

1. Jan Thayer, 1945 total pins.	
2. Al Angove, 1920 total pins.	
3. Tim Sheldon, 1895 total pins.	
4. Ray Pyle, 1888 total pins.	
5. Tim Martin, 1864 total pins.	
6. Bill Evon, 1860 total pins.	
7. Jim DuBois, 1855 total pins.	
8. Mac Ashworth, 1839 total pins.	
9. Ken Louchart, 1831 total pins.	
10. Ron Hinds, 1827 total pins.	

Hinkle, Tobin and Beckwith receive All-League honors

Three Grayling High School boys basketball players recently received all-conference honors.

Nate Hinkle, a sophomore guard, was named to the North East Michigan Conference All-League First Team.

Sophomore Eli Tobin, also a guard, was named to the NEMC First Team as well.

Forward Nate Beckwith, a junior, received an All-League Honorable Mention.

Hinkle averaged 27 points and seven rebounds per game. He hit 71 percent of his free throws and shot 48 percent from three point land.

Tobin scored 16 points a game and averaged eight assists per outing.

Beckwith finished the season with a 12 points-per-game average. He made 41 percent of his shots from three point range.

The varsity Vikings team finished the year in a three way tie for the NEMC championship.

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1997-98 TEAM CHAMPS -- Don Germain holds the prize money check awarded his team, sponsored by Moore's Automotive, for placing first in the team event in the Grayling City Association #23365 Annual ABC Championship Tournament held Feb. 10 and Feb. 12. With him are his teammates, from left: Al Angove, Todd Kotrash, Carl Yost and Phil Faustman.

Grayling City Association #23365 bowling Annual ABC Championship Tournament 1997-98 Final Standings

TEAM EVENT

1. Moore's Automotive, 3246 total pins. Carl Yost, captain.	
2. Legion Lanes, 3160 total pins. Brian Palmer, captain.	
3. McLeans Ace, 3085 total pins. Larry Davis Jr., captain.	
4. C.S.I., 3069 total pins. Mike Campbell, captain.	
5. Stitches by Sue, 3032 total pins. Ken Louchart, captain.	
6. Forrest Brothers, 3026 total pins. Mike Barr, captain.	
7. Northern Whitetail, 2999 total pins. Dan Canfield, captain.	
8. Auto-Wares, 2967 total pins. Tom Devins, captain.	
9. Burnside R.V., 2951 total pins. Tim Martin, captain.	
10. Corky's D.J., 2923 total pins. Mac Ashworth, captain.	

DOUBLES EVENT

1. Phil Faustman & Larry Davis Jr.

1414 total pins.	
2. Jake Helsel & Lance Davis, 1248 total pins.	
3. Mike Barr & Tim Sheldon, 1242 total pins.	
4. Dan Walker & Perry Papendick, 1228 total pins.	
5. Ron Hinds & Jim Golnick, 1221 total pins.	
6. Jim DuBois & Dan Canfield, 1220 total pins.	
7. Tim Martin & Carl Yost, 1208 total pins.	
8. Michael Moshier & Roger Moshier, 1204 total pins.	
9. Troy McDonald & Steve Peterson, 1194 total pins.	
10. Luke Helsel & Bill Evon, 1183 total pins.	

SINGLES EVENT

1. Lance Davis, 722 total pins.
2. Joe Prosser, 687 total pins.
3. Al Angove, 671 total pins.
4. Jan Thayer, 665 total pins.

Grizzlies split two with Ambassadors

On Friday, March 20 the Gaylord Grizzlies faced the Compuware Ambassadors in Detroit.

The Grizzlies won by a score of 4-2.

Nate Ziernski was protecting the Grizzlies net while Beau Fritz was between the pipes for the Ambassadors.

Goals for the Grizzlies were scored by Kenton Bednarz; a power play goal assisted by Karlis Zirnis & Brad Fraser, Kenton Bednarz from Karlis Zirnis, Josh Johnson unassisted, and Karlis Zirnis; an unassisted empty net goal.

Nate Ziernski was between the Grizzlies pipes again on Saturday, March 21 when the team returned home to the Ostego County Sportsplex to once again face the Ambassadors. The Grizzlies lost that game by a score of 3-2.

Grizzlies goals were scored by Mark Yoder unassisted and Efrén Larranaga assisted by R.C. Lyke & Kenton Bednarz.

Card Of Thanks

We would like to thank Phil Trudgeon, Mike Doremire and families for a great Men's Basketball League and even better party. Also the Officials, Joe Pete and Spikes Keg O'Nails the greatest Bar/sponsor in the north.

Team Spikes

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BOWLING LEAGUE

Triangle League	National First
Milltown Carpet.....47-9	Northern White Tail.....31
Airway Automation.....35-21	Moore's Auto Parts.....28
Barber Construction.....33-23	Legion & D. Ross Const.....24
A Team.....26-30	Weyerhaeuser.....24
C.S.I.....23-33	Forest Brothers.....19
Moshier Auto Repair.....21.5-34.5	Corky's D.J. & Karaoke.....16
Cal Schreiber Bldr.....20-36	City Environmental.....16
Jackson Trio.....18.5-37.5	Guns & Grubs.....2
High Game: A. Angove, 234, 220; T. Everly, 223, 212; D. Handy, 220.	High Game: B. Palmer, 265; D. Canfield, 226; C. Golnick, 224.
High Series: A. Angove, 642; T. Everly, 625; D. Handy, 550.	High Series: A. Angove, 648; J. Helsel, 623; B. Palmer, 593.
Northwood League	Pioneer League
Rich's Cycle Service.....31	Ginger's.....26.5-13.5
Wakeley's Auto Parts.....28.5	Custom Interior.....23.5-16.5
Helsel Brothers.....25	Mercy Hospital.....23-17
Millikin's.....20.5	Millikin's.....22-18
R & M Masonry.....19	Chemical Bank.....21-19
Rochette's.....18	Aunt Betty's.....17-23
R. Calkins & Sons.....17	Avalanche.....14-26
Milltown Carpet.....17	Lady Slippers.....13-27
High Game: S. Romain, 219; T. Raybould, 195; M. Miller, S. Harney, 183.	High Game: K. Trudeau, L. Golnick, 197; S. France, 192; K. Moshier, 189.
High Series: L. Holtcamp, 530; B. Walker, 526; M. Miller, 523.	High Series: L. Golnick, 557; S. France, 525; K. Moshier, 514.
American Men's League	
McLean's Ace.....17-11	
Stitches by Sue.....17-11	
Red Barn.....15-13	
Burnside RV.....14-14	
Buccilli's.....13-15	
Upper Lakes.....13-15	
Northwood's Land.....12-16	
Fenton's Auto.....11-17	
High Game: Larry Davis, 238; M. Nunn, 237; B. Hurd, 222; M. Keir, 213	
High Series: B. Hurd, 578; J. Thayer, 555; D. Canfield, 554.	
Friday Night Mixed Doubles	
Charles Country Corner.....38-14	
Suttles.....34-18	
Aunt Betty's.....26-26	
Moshier Auto Repair.....25-27	
A. Bulldog Towing.....25-27	
AJD Forest Products.....24-28	
Fick & Sons.....20-32	
Sawmill.....16-36	
Men's High Game: M. Campbell, 198; R. Schreiber, 191; M. Sumner, 189.	
Women's High Game: K. Trudeau, 199, 193; B. Lozon, 186; S. France, 184.	
Women's High Series: S. France, 531; K. Trudeau, 527; K. Moshier, 489.	

LEGAL ACTION

STATE OF MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS IN THE PROBATE COURT CRAWFORD FOR THE COUNTY OF COUNTY BOARD Estate of Clarence E. OF Wygant, deceased COMMISSIONERS Personnel and Labor Meeting of January 27, 1998

Chairman Robert Smock called to order the Crawford County Personnel & Labor Committee Meeting in the County Building on January 27, 1998.

Present: Smock, Long, Bretzek, Hartman, Black.

Absent: Corlew.

Sandra Moore, County Clerk/Reg. of Deeds present.

There were also other visitors present.

Approved the minutes of the December 9, 1997 Personnel & Labor Meeting.

Commissioner Corlew present at 8:25 a.m.

Agreed that the presented employee Performance Review Form to be distributed to each County Commissioner for consideration and to submit comments to Personnel & Labor Chairman Smock by the next Regular Board Meeting of February 12, 1998.

Advised that when the Court Personnel Contract conflicts with the AFSCME District Court Policy, any court employees who recently took off an unpaid holiday will either take the time as a vacation day or as unpaid day.

Agreed that all outside Corporate Counsel costs for labor issues will be charge to the respective department affected rather than the County Line Item.

Agreed to invite City Controller Charlie Brown to address the Board at the February 24, 1998 Regular Board Meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Sandra Moore, County Clerk/Reg. of Deeds

Recreation League	Senior Citizens League
Peterson Saw Service.....28-16	Tees 'N' Such 'R' Us.....60.5-43.5
Glen's Market.....24-20	Buccilli's Pizza.....56-48
North Country R.V.....23.5-20.5	Baynam Forest Products.....54.5-49.5
Mickey Perez CPA.....21.5-22.5	Totten's Body Shop.....53-51
Fun-N-Sun Rental.....20.5-23.5	Stevens Family Circle.....53-51
Cornell's.....20-24	Cornell Realty.....48.5-55.5
Scheer Motors.....19.5-24.5	Flowers By Josie.....45.5-58.5
Mark 8.....19-25	Sylvester's Sports.....45-59
High Game: A. Mastej, 213; N. Root, 200; S. Sumner, 196.	Men's High Game: L. Essiambre, 201; K. Harris, 195; A. Smith, 194.
High Series: J. Hinds, 567; A. Mastej, 545; M. McClanahan, 524.	Men's High Series: L. Essiambre, 549; D. Germain, 520; K. Harris, 516.
	Women's High Game: P. Harris, 181; D. Brantley, 176; M. Tarr, 174.
	Women's High Series: P. Harris, 475; R. Joyce, 459; D. Brantley, 453.

Sunday Nite Mixed Doubles
Us & Them.....41-15
Computer Services.....40-16
Suttles Truck Leasing.....37-19
M.M.L.D.....30.5-25.5
C.S.I.....30-26
R & M Masonry.....21-35
Gary's Drywall.....18.5-37.5
Bye.....6-50
Men's High Game: R. Pyle, 215; J. Helsel, 212; R. Adkinson, 209.
Men's High Series: R. Pyle, 537; R. Adkinson, 524; J. Helsel, 521.
Women's High Game: M. Starks, 204; K. Moshier, 202; G. Murray, 193.
Women's High Series: M. Miller, 539; S. France, 509; K. Moshier, 504.

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<p>1 KANSAS Bronco Amoco</p> <p>16 PRAIRIE VIEW Dr. Dami</p> <p>8 RHODE ISLAND Cornell Real Estate</p> <p>9 MURRAY STATE Super 8 Motel</p> <p>5 TEXAS CHRISTIAN Hi Tech</p> <p>12 FLORIDA STATE Hard Bodyz</p> <p>4 MISSISSIPPI Rialto Theatre</p> <p>13 VALPARAISO Wolohan Lumber</p> <p>6 CLEMSON Riverland Gear</p> <p>11 W. MICHIGAN JJ's Motor Mail</p> <p>3 STANFORD Scheer Motors</p> <p>14 CHARLESTON Buccilli's</p> <p>7 ST. JOHNS Sawmill</p> <p>10 DETROIT River Park Campground</p> <p>2 PURDUE Heads Up North</p> <p>15 DELAWARE Glen's</p> <p>1 DUKE Grayling Glass</p> <p>16 RADFORD J Dep Co.</p> <p>8 OKLAHOMA STATE Charlene Scheer</p> <p>9 G. WASHINGTON Diane's Car Wash</p> <p>5 SYRACUSE AuSable Gifts</p> <p>12 IONA Fick & Sons, Inc.</p> <p>4 NEW MEXICO Comfort Center</p> <p>13 BUTLER Grayling Pharmacy</p> <p>6 UCLA Scheer Motors</p> <p>11 MIAMI (FLA.) Karp's Inc.</p> <p>3 MICHIGAN Grayling Entertainment</p> <p>14 DAVIDSON Arby's</p> <p>7 MASS. Charlie's Country Corner</p> <p>10 SAINT LOUIS Grayling Holiday Inn</p> <p>2 KENTUCKY Milltown Motors</p> <p>15 S. CAROLINA STATE Northland Credit Union</p>	<p>KANSAS Bronco Amoco</p> <p>RHODE ISLAND Cornell Real Estate</p> <p>FLORIDA STATE Hard Bodyz</p> <p>VALPARAISO Wolohan Lumber</p> <p>W. MICHIGAN JJ's Motor Mail</p> <p>STANFORD Scheer Motors</p> <p>DETROIT River Park Campground</p> <p>PURDUE Heads Up North</p> <p>DUKE Grayling Glass</p> <p>OKLAHOMA ST. Charlene Scheer</p> <p>SYRACUSE AuSable Gifts</p> <p>NEW MEXICO Comfort Center</p> <p>UCLA SCHEER MOTORS MICHIGAN Grayling Entertainment</p> <p>ST. LOUIS Grayling Holiday Inn</p> <p>KENTUCKY Milltown Motors</p>	<p>RHODE ISLAND CORNELL REAL ESTATE</p> <p>VALPARAISO Wolohan Lumber</p> <p>STANFORD Scheer Motors</p> <p>PURDUE Heads Up North</p> <p>DUKE Grayling Glass</p> <p>SYRACUSE AuSable Gifts</p> <p>UCLA Scheer Motors</p> <p>KENTUCKY Milltown Motors</p>	<p>NORTH CAROLINA Dr. Dean</p> <p>NC CHARLOTTE Cald's Grocery</p> <p>PRINCETON JC Penney</p> <p>MICHIGAN STATE Hospitality House</p> <p>WASHINGTON Holton's LP Gas</p> <p>RICHMOND Lewiston Motor Sports</p> <p>INDIANA AuSable Auto Repair & Sound</p> <p>CONNECTICUT Show Tyme Collision</p> <p>ARIZONA McLean's Ace Hardware</p> <p>MARYLAND Continental Rental</p> <p>ILLINOIS Jansen Sales & Service</p> <p>MARYLAND Continental Rental</p> <p>ARKANSAS Ernie's Flea Market</p> <p>UTAH Davis Jewellers & Gemologists</p> <p>WEST VIRGINIA C. Hinkle - RE/MAX of Grayling</p> <p>WEST VIRGINIA C. Hinkle - RE/MAX of Grayling</p> <p>CINCINNATI Scott McNamara</p> <p>TEMPLE Preview Surplus & Supply</p> <p>10 WEST VIRGINIA C. Hinkle - RE/MAX of Grayling</p> <p>2 CINCINNATI Scott McNamara</p> <p>15 NORTHERN ARIZONA Wager Motor Sales</p>	<p>1 NORTH CAROLINA Dr. Dean</p> <p>16 NAVY Thermogas</p> <p>8 NC CHARLOTTE Cald's Grocery</p> <p>9 ILLINOIS - CHICAGO Abel Auto Parts</p> <p>5 PRINCETON JC Penney</p> <p>12 UNLV 4 Mile Welding</p> <p>4 MICHIGAN STATE Hospitality House</p> <p>13 E. MICHIGAN Sylvesters Sports</p> <p>6 XAVIER Iron Gate Restaurant</p> <p>11 WASHINGTON Holtons LP Gas</p> <p>3 SOUTH CAROLINA Home Designs</p> <p>14 RICHMOND Lewiston Motor Sports</p> <p>7 INDIANA AuSable Auto Repair & Sound</p> <p>10 OKLAHOMA Wendy's of Grayling</p> <p>2 CONNECTICUT DuBois Lumber Co.</p> <p>15 FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON Show Tyme Collision</p> <p>1 ARIZONA McLeans Ace Hardware</p> <p>16 NICHOLLS STATE Grayling Big Boy Restaurant</p> <p>8 TENNESSEE Jansen Insurance Agency</p> <p>9 ILLINOIS STATE Crawford County Abstract</p> <p>5 ILLINOIS Jansen Sales & Service</p> <p>12 SOUTH ALABAMA Grayling Insurance Agency</p> <p>4 MARYLAND Continental Rental</p> <p>13 UTAH STATE C.Wheeler / Don Master Chevrolet</p> <p>6 ARKANSAS Ernie's Flea Market</p> <p>11 NEBRASKA J.Henrich / Don Master Chevrolet</p> <p>3 UTAH Davis Jewellers & Gemologists</p> <p>14 SAN FRANCISCO Scott McNamara Ford</p>
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11. Automotive

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1998 SPRING

SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT

April is just a few short days away and even though there is still snow on the ground, it's time to start thinking about cleaning up, fixing up and improving your surroundings, inside and out.

There are decks and garages to build, walls to be washed and painted, windows to be glazed and painted, washed or replaced. And, don't forget those worn out screens.

Perhaps you are considering an addition to your home or a whole new home. There is a lot to be considered in making an educated decision when it comes to any kind of building or improvement.

Winter has left behind scattered tree limbs and roadside litter hidden under the snow and damage to roofs, gutters and eaves from ice dam formation. And, maybe some of you will finally get those Christmas lights and Santa down from the roof.

New landscaping or a fence may be in your Spring improvement plans. Or, a storage shed for your gardening tools, or maybe even a deluxe doghouse for FiFi or Rover.

Wherever your home improvement hopes and dreams may be leading you, we here at *The Avalanche* hope you find some assistance in the pages of this special 1998 *Spring Home Improvement Section* by way of the many helpful articles, or sought from any one of the many businesses advertising in this issue.



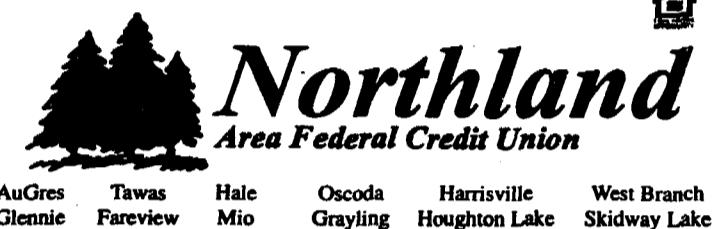
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Finding a contractor that's right for you

by Robert Brotebeck, President Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association

If you own a home, no matter what its age, sooner or later you may join the millions of people who remodel their homes each year. Recent statistics show that homeowners spent \$115 billion in remodeling expenditures in 1994, and 1995 figures indicate a similar amount of spending. The reasons for remodeling are as varied as the projects themselves, but generally we choose to remodel to add comfort, convenience, space and, ultimately, value to our home.

If you are like many other home owners across the country who have undertaken a remodeling project, you had to make many decisions related to the project. Details like what kind of project you want to do, how you will use this space and how much money you are willing to spend must be thought-out and communicated to your contractor to avoid any confusion down the road. So how did you go about finding a remodeler to do your project?

Finding a remodeler who is right for you will take some time and planning, but it is worth the effort when you are satisfied with the completed project. To begin your search:

- Seek referrals from friends, family, neighbors and co-workers who have had remodeling work done and ask them if they would hire the remodeler again.
- Contact local trade associations such as your area's local home builders

association and Remodelers Council for a list of their members.

- Check with your state's licensing agency and local building inspectors to verify the remodeler has the appropriate license (s).

When you begin to interview a remodeler, keep in mind that you are buying a service rather than a product. The quality of service the remodeler provides will determine the quality of the finished project and your satisfaction with it. Take a look at the remodeler's business and management experience.

- Does the remodeler have a trustworthy reputation in the community, with previous customers and with local building supply companies?

- Does the remodeler carry insurance that protects you from claims arising from property damage or jobsite injuries?

- Is the remodeler an active participant in a trade organization such as the Remodelers Council of the National Association of Home Builders? Membership in the Remodelers Council indicates a remodeler's commitment to professional-quality construction that meets or exceeds industry standards and practices.

- Is the remodeler accredited in a certification program such as the Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) program? Remodelers bearing the CGR credentials indicate that they have met a prescribed set of educational requirements and follow a strict code of business and professional ethics.

In addition to business and management experience, look at the remodeler's construction and technical expertise, customer service and communication skills.

- Does the remodeler have a working knowledge of the many types of homes in your area?

- Does the remodeler offer an array of options for your project thus demonstrating a knowledge of and experience with a variety of products, materials and techniques?

- Does the remodeler listen to you and understand your needs and wants with the project?

- Will the remodeler provide you with scheduled updates so that you can make appropriate decisions and prepare for any inconvenience.

Finding a remodeler who is right for you is not as simple as picking up the yellow pages of your phone book. It takes time to interview and select a contractor who will best suit your needs and the needs of your project. To help you in this search, the National Association of Home Builders



(NAHB) has produced a brochure complimentary copy of the brochure, called "How to Find a Professional Remodeler" which is full of tips and techniques to use when searching for a remodeler. For a single, 2800.

1998 HOME SHOW EXHIBITORS

WOLCHAN LUMBER	2241 W. HOUGHTON LAKE, HL	366-6489
WESTERN CONCRETE	942 FEDERAL, HL	422-3531
STANDARD FEDERAL	5213 W. HOUGHTON LAKE, HL	366-5327
SWEET & HEAT	PO 542, HARRISON, 48635	539-6517
GREAT LAKES SOFT WATER	110 RUSSEL, HL	366-8159
GUTTER SOLUTION	3811 PERRINE, MIDLAND 48642	839-4203
OUT BACK HEATING	392 S. COLDWATER, WEIDMAN	644-6112
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WALMART	3451 W. HOUGHTON LAKE, HL	366-9766
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RANDALL LUMBER	7409 W. HTS VIEW, HLH	422-5155
QUALITY COATINGS & INSUL.	133 SURREY, ROSCOMMON	821-8094
WICKES LUMBER	6045 E. WEST BRANCH, SH	389-4935
HEARTH OF THE HOME	234 E. PINE ST., HARRISON	539-3551
N.C. AREA C.U.	PO 220, HL	366-9646
COUNTRY CONST.	2212 W. SCHOOL, RO	821-6424
ANSWER HTG. & COOLING	PO 939, HOUGHTON LAKE	422-6618
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LAUNSTEIN HARDWOODS	384 S. EVERY, MASON 48854	676-1847
M&M HOME ENRGY	1998 W. HOUGHTON LAKE, HL	366-9683
DECORATING TODAY	PO 689, RO	821-6131
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T S O CONSTRUCTION	302 RIDGEDALE, RO	821-6776
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RAINSOFT	2268 S. M-76, WEST BRANCH	345-3800
OLIVER'S	PO 140, PR	366-7245
NORTHERN COMMUNICATION	2121 W. HOUGHTON LAKE, HL	366-7535
NBD BANK	PO 100, CADILLAC 49601	616-775-4611
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FICK & SONS	113 FIG ST., GRAYLING	348-7647
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MARVIN'S GARDENS	5213 W. M-76, WEST BRANCH	345-7500
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CULLIGAN OF WEST BRANCH	PO 266, WEST BRANCH 48661	345-0372
HORIZON RESTORATION	2374 TOWER HILL, HL	422-5507
THE MASTERS SHOP	PO 537, ATLANTA 49709	888-785-3071
SOIL CONSERVATION	PO 156, RO	275-5231
DKW ASSOC.	10730 PAWPAW, HOLLAND	616-772-3448
HOUGHTON LAKE BLDG. TRADES		
TEMI	2161 W. HOUGHTON LAKE, HL	
DONCO CONSTRUCTION	PO 939, PR	366-8329
OAK GALLERY	PO 1637, HL	366-8957
CENTRAL MI HEALTH DEPT.	2012 E. PRESTON, MP	773-5921
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Gaylord
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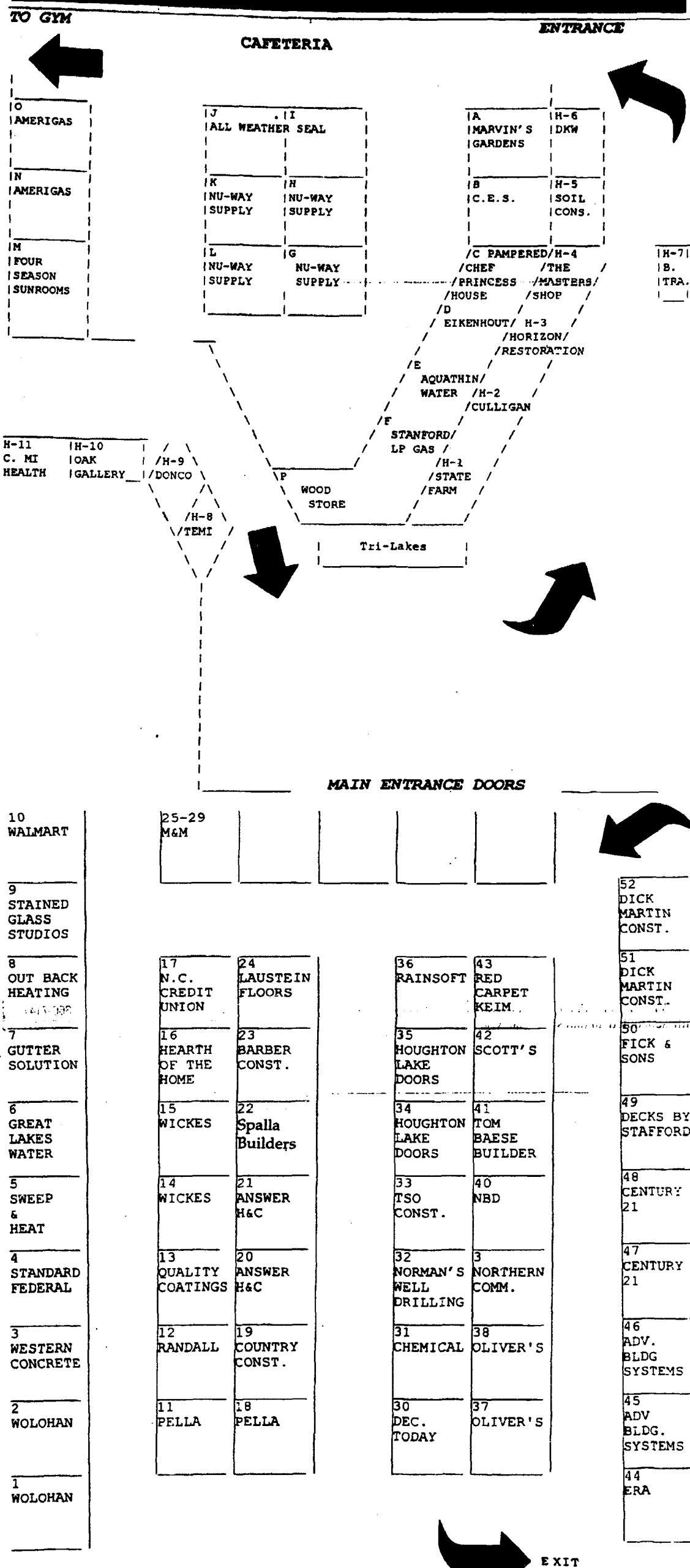
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Tri Lake Builders Show floor layout



How Healthy Is Your Home?

(NU)—Did you know that most Americans spend 90 percent of their time indoors and that the pollution inside is often greater than outdoors? Health effects from indoor air pollutants may be experienced soon after exposure, or possibly years later. Immediate effects may show up after a single exposure or repeated exposures. These include irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, headaches, dizziness and fatigue.

But indoor air pollution is a risk that you can do something about. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with some common indoor environmental problems and with some simple steps you can take to protect your family. Check these items and make changes, if necessary, to reduce your health risks:

1-Bedroom

Humidifier: Clean according to manufacturer's directions. Refill with clean water daily.

2-Bathroom

Moisture, mold and mildew: Install and use exhaust fan. Fix plumbing leaks promptly. When using personal care products (hair spray, nail polish, etc.), open a window or use an exhaust fan. Follow directions for product use.

3-All Rooms

Animals (dander, hair, feathers or skin): Clean house regularly.

Tobacco smoke (from cigarette, pipe and cigar smoking): Do not smoke in your home or permit others to do so (especially near children). If smoking cannot be avoided, open windows or use exhaust fans.

House dust mites: Clean house and vacuum regularly. Wash bedding in hot water. Keep humidity and moisture to a minimum.

4-Kitchen

Household cleansers: Open windows when using household cleaners. Use according to manufacturer's directions.

Cooking and dishwasher use: To reduce moisture, install and use a fan that vents to the outside.

5-Basement or Ground Floor

Radon: Test your home for radon. Do-it-yourself kits are easy and inexpensive. Fix your home if your radon level is 4 picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L) or higher. For more information, contact your state radon office, or call 1-800-SOS-RADON.

Stored Hobby Products (paint, glue, epoxy, etc.): Follow the manufacturer's directions. Use outdoors, if possible. Indoors, open a window or use exhaust fan. Reseal containers well. Clean brushes and other materials outside.

6-Cooling System

Air conditioners: Follow all service and maintenance procedures, including changing the filters. Make sure unit drains properly and that there is no standing water.

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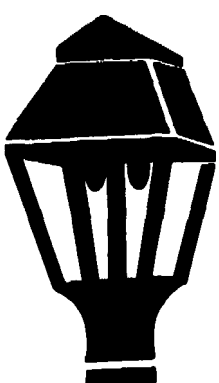


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Natural gas lights are an attractive way to illuminate yards, driveways, patios and decks at a very low cost, according to the American Gas Association.

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Natural gas lights can be equipped with automatic on-and-off switches or dimmers that reduce illumination during daylight hours. These energy-saving features can reduce the already low cost of natural gas lighting by as much as 50 percent, A.G.A. says.



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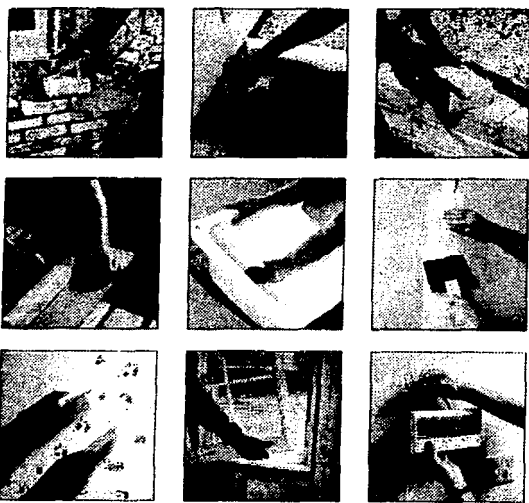
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Handy tips on lowering energy costs

by Robert Brotebeck, President
 Tri-Lakes Home Builders
 Association

Set living expenses like mortgage payments, rent payments, property taxes and house insurance can all take a big bite out of a family's budget. There is nothing a family can do to lower these costs each month, but they can take steps to reduce their monthly fuel bills and make their homes more energy efficient.

Windows can have an important effect on energy bills. Southern windows act as solar collectors that you can control by opening or closing draperies, curtains, blinds or movable insulation. In cold weather, southern windows should be kept unobstructed during the day. Anything blocking the sunlight can be costly, even sheer curtains can prevent the heat of the sun from entering the room. During the summer or on especially hot days in the spring and fall when the air conditioner is not running, covering the windows will help keep out unwanted heat.

Some people find they are uncomfortable in southern rooms at night, even if the temperature is 70 degrees or more because body heat can interact with cold outside air radiating through the window. The problem can be solved with drapes or curtains. With these in place, body heat interacts with the temperature of the fabric rather than the cold outside air. Drapes and curtains help reduce drafts by trapping cold air between the

fabric and windows if the drapes and curtains extend to the floor and the sides hang close to the window.

Windows on the west side can draw large amounts of heat into the house during the afternoon. The heat is desirable in the winter, but can be a big problem in the summer. Landscaping planned with trees planted in strategic spots can help shade the house from the sun's rays.

The solar energy your house collects must pass through the windows, so they must be kept clean. If the house has large areas of glass that are hard to reach, a long-handled window cleaner with a sponge on one side and a squeegee on the other makes cleaning easier.

If a problem with glare develops, you may be able to reduce it with special slatted blinds that are reflective on one side. The blinds are used to reflect light up to the ceiling or deeper into the room. The benefit of the energy can be obtained with less glare.

Color also makes a difference in the amount of heat a room holds. Light colors reflect light and heat, and darker colors absorb them. So if you want to keep more heat in your rooms, the walls should be painted a darker color. If you want a cooler room, the walls should be painted a lighter shade. And, if you have a masonry fireplace wall that is supposed to catch the sunlight and store its heat, avoid painting it a light color. The ceiling should be painted a light color so the solar energy will bounce around and finally settle

on darker colored walls, furniture, drapes and carpeting which store the energy. These dark storage materials do not have to be black, but darker shades are better solar absorbers than white, bright or light colors.

If stone, tile or concrete floor sections are bathed in sunshine, they are storing solar energy for later use. Covering these floor areas with carpet converts the sunlight into instant heat and fades the rug. The instant heat is strongest in the middle of the day when it is least needed. If the floor is allowed to absorb the solar energy during the day, it will release the energy in the evening when outside air is colder and the house needs the heat. Avoid covering floors near windows with heavy carpeting. Small scatter

rugs are fine. Light-colored heavy shag rugs create the biggest problem.

During warm weather, you can feel comfortable without air-conditioning if there is a cool breeze. Your home may be designed to provide good air flow with or without a mechanical fan. Having the air flow over the occupants of the house is more important than airing out the entire house. Open the windows in the living room around dinner-time and the bedrooms later in the evening, having all of the windows wide open often reduces the comfort level everywhere.

By becoming actively involved in managing the energy usage in your home, you can realize important savings on your fuel bills and feel more comfortable in your home.

10 Most Frequent House Problems

Everything looks prettier in the Spring, and so, traditionally, home sales shift into high gear just about the same time as the daffodils start to bloom. But home buyers should be careful not to be taken in by a pretty face in the form of a fresh coat of paint or a new azalea bush.

Since no home is perfect, home buyers would be wise to learn where and how to look beyond the cosmetics for possible signs of problems with their prospective purchase.

Failure to do so before they buy could mean any number of unpleasant surprises after the move. Experts recommend hiring and accompanying a professional home inspector on a pre-purchase examination of the home's structural and mechanical condition. (See "How to Find a Home Inspector.") While this won't guarantee a perfect home, or even that problems won't develop sometime in the future, it will greatly reduce the risk, and it will provide a valuable education in the process.

In the most recent survey of its members, the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) compiled a list of the most frequently found problems in homes. It is significant that within this list of ten problem categories, at least four are directly related to the damaging effects of water. Apparently, keeping water out, after a home is built, is the home owner's most important, and continually challenging, task.

It should be noted that this list represents a national average. Regional climates, building codes, and the age of a home played a significant role in the ASHI findings.

1. Improper Surface Grading/Drainage

This was by far the most frequently found problem, reported by 35.8% of the home inspectors surveyed. It is responsible for the most common of household maladies: water penetration of the basement or crawlspace. The most effective remedies for wet basements include regrading the ground away from the house and repairing or installing a new system of roof gutters and downspouts.

2. Improper Electrical Wiring

A significant number (19.9%) chose this item as the most common home defect, which includes such situations as insufficient electrical service to the house, inadequate overload protection, and amateur, often dangerous, wiring connections. Some home inspectors said that 70% to 80% of the electrical wiring they see is done wrong, and that most of it is attributable to do-it-yourselfers. This is a serious safety hazard, not just a cosmetic defect.

3. Roof Damage

Although reported by only 8.5% of the home inspectors as the most common problem, roof leakage, caused by old or damaged shingles, or improper flashing, was considered by ASHI members to be a frequent problem. Shingle repairs can be easily and inexpensively done, but shingles near the end of their life span may mean a major reroofing expense.

4. Heating Systems

Problems in this category include broken or malfunctioning operation controls, blocked chimneys, and unsafe



According to the American Society of Home Inspectors, at least four of the top ten house problems are directly related to the damaging effects of water.

exhaust disposal. These conditions represent more than simply inefficient heating, they are health and safety hazards. Heating systems should be serviced and maintained annually by a professional, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

5. Poor Overall Maintenance

Americans take better care of their cars than they do their homes, say home inspectors, who often come across cracked, peeling, or dirty painted surfaces, crumbling masonry, makeshift wiring or plumbing, and broken fixtures or appliances. Although some of these problems may seem more cosmetic than serious, they reflect the overall lack of care which has been given to the home.

6. Structurally Related Problems

As a result of problems in one or more of the other categories, many houses sustain some, although usually not serious, damage to structural components such as foundation walls, floor joists, rafters, or window and door headers.

7. Plumbing

Though never ranked by the home inspectors as a Number One problem, plumbing defects still ranked high among the house problems encountered, and included the existence of old or incompatible piping materials, as well as faulty fixtures and waste lines. Surprisingly, some home inspectors reported finding natural gas leaks in as many as one out of three homes inspected.

8. Exteriors

Flaws in a home's exterior, including windows, doors, and wall surfaces, are responsible for the discomfort caused by water and air penetration, but they rarely have structural significance. Inadequate caulking and/or weatherstripping are the most common culprits.

9. Poor Ventilation

Perhaps due to overly ambitious efforts to save energy, many home owners have "over-sealed" their homes, resulting in excessive interior moisture. This can cause rotting and premature failure of both structural and non-structural elements. It can also lead to tremendous mold accumulation, which often causes allergic reactions.

10. Miscellaneous

This category included various interior components, such as sticky windows or dripping faucets, as well as a number of environmental concerns, such as lead-based paint and asbestos.

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

A Sure Cure For Toilets That Won't Shut-Off

(NAPS)—It often starts with a gurgle that won't stop until you jiggle the handle. But that won't truly fix a sneaky but wasteful leak that leads to bigger water bills.

You could even be wasting thousands of gallons due to a virtually silent leak. Here's how to easily reveal it: remove the tank lid, then flush. As the tank refills, add several drops of dark food coloring to the tank water. Wait at least 20 minutes. If any trace of color appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak.

Why not tackle the troublesome toilet now, during National Toilet Repair Month?

Toilet tank leaks are America's most common household plumbing repair according to Fluidmaster, the world's leading repair parts manufacturer. They say too many homeowners settle for a quick fix when they would benefit far more from a toilet "tune-up."

With little effort, non-professionals can perform a toilet tune-up by installing a new fill valve, flapper, tank lever/handle and



If your toilet won't shut off until you jiggle the handle, you have a wasteful leak.

water supply connector. It takes just over an hour and uses four replacement parts found in almost any hardware store or home center for a total cost of \$20 or less.

A toilet tune-up is a wise use of time since the tank is already empty for even a single-part repair. It's a step beyond a minor repair, but the reward is years and years of quiet, efficient flushes.



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Decks: America's favorite do-it-yourself project

by Robert Brotebeck, President
Tri-Lakes Home Builders
Association

Thinking of adding a deck to your new home? You're certainly not alone. Decks are America's most popular do-it-yourself home improvement project.

What is it about decks that appeal to American home owners? Being off the ground, away from grass and bugs. Americans like to have a place for the barbecue grill that's convenient to the house, comfortable and removed from the lawn. Plus, decks are a favorite spot for sunning and outdoor entertaining.

About 1.5 million decks are built or remodeled each year, according to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). The average life of a typical deck is 12 years. Decks are not only found in the Sunbelt and the West where they can be used year-round, but also in northern states where they can be used for just a few months a year.

In a recent survey conducted by NAHB on consumer preferences, 83 percent of potential new home buyers surveyed said they would like their new home to have a deck off the back of the house, including 29 percent who said a deck was "essential." Just four percent said they did not want a deck.

Decks are offered as an option by home builders on most new homes. Typically, they're a standard item only in luxury homes. But, most new home buyers pass up the builders' offer of a



deck and build it themselves instead.

According to NAHB, when people buy a new home, one of the first projects they want to undertake is adding a deck. About two-thirds of new homeowners consider themselves handy enough to tackle the job themselves; the other one-third have the deck built professionally.

The do-it-yourself savings can be significant. A typical deck costs about \$20 a square foot if a decking contractor or other professional is hired; so it-

yourselfers pay about \$8 a square foot.

Today, with most lumber yards offering expert design assistance and even pre-cut lumber packages for decks, it's a project that can be completed by the average home owner with few complications.

Over the past couple of decades, the design of decks has changed significantly. Decks once were a simple rectangle or square with no extras. Today's decks come in all shapes and sizes and typically include benches, planter boxes and posts for

hanging baskets of flowers.

Most decks are built off the rear of the house. However, there is an emerging trend of putting the deck in the front of the home, especially by home owners who live on cul-de-sacs. In the front of the house, the deck acts more like a front porch.

With all of the advantages and conveniences offered by a deck, and the fact that help is right down the block at the local lumber yard, it's no surprise that decks are one of home owners' most desired amenities.

Wet wood won't work... keep decking dry

(NAPS)—Sipping a cool beverage with your feet up, watching the grass grow, the kids play, soaking in the hot tub—surveying all the splendor that is summer, spring, fall or winter.

A deck or porch is a welcome entertainment addition to every home. A deck or porch increases the living space of your home and provides for hours of outdoor enjoyment. The incredible variety of designs available for the home is so enormous you can have exactly the look and layout to suit your family's needs. But building your own deck requires careful thought, the proper tools, design and preparations.

When building a porch or deck

floor, letting your wood get wet is an idea that's all wet. All woods shrink as they dry and swell when they absorb moisture. Problems, such as checking, buckling, splitting and rail popping are the result of the dimensional changes in wood caused by moisture.

Even though pressure-treated wood is protected against termites and decay, it is subject to moisture change. You can prevent many of these moisture problems with proper construction techniques.

First, store the pressure-treated wood properly prior to use. Make sure you protect the pressure-treated wood from moisture, sun, and other elements which might cause uneven

drying. Store materials under cover. Avoid direct contact with the ground. Loosen any tightly wrapped covers which may trap moisture in the wood.

Second, it is important that you do not exceed recommended spans or leave long overhangs. Space the floor joists no farther than 16" on center. Use enough nails or screws to secure the wood and reduce warping. Three nails should be used across two by six decking. And use non-corrosive fasteners—a top quality hot-dipped, galvanized, aluminum or stainless steel fastener.

Third, water repellent coatings help keep pressure-treated wood from absorbing moisture and tend to stabilize the moisture content. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Water repellent should be reapplied every one to two years for adequate moisture protection. If you purchased pressure-treated wood with built-in repellent, you can skip the initial application.

Following these simple steps will ensure that your pressure-treated wood decking lasts and looks great!



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HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

For Deck Repairs: Use Your Head, Lose A Head

(NAPS)—Nails and screws need not rear their ugly heads on your outdoor deck. Ordinarily, the expansion and contraction due to weathering pushes the head of the deck nail up above the level of the boards. This weakens the connection between the joist and the deck board, mars the appearance of the deck and makes it a potentially uncomfortable, even dangerous place to be.

Fortunately, you can now get a screw fastener with seven times the grip of a nail and no unsightly head.

The head of this Counter Snap screw is designed to snap off 1/8th of an inch below the level of the deck board. This leaves two inches of screw grip holding the deck board down firmly to the joist. The hole is hardly noticeable. Because this screw breaks off below the surface, the wood surrounding the hole eventually expands to fill the

hole as the deck weathers. The result is a tightly fastened, clean-looking deck surface.



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The emotional effects of color

(NAPS)—Feeling blue? How about red, green or orange? Whether or not we realize it, we all are affected emotionally by the colors that surround us. Even at home, the colors we choose reflect our feelings and personalities. Colors also influence us and those who share our homes.

Color researchers have found that when test subjects are placed in red rooms, their pulses and body temperatures increase; when the same individuals are placed in blue rooms, the opposite occurs. Other experiments have shown that violence among inmates was reduced when prison walls were painted pink, and that children in red classrooms were more hyperactive than their peers whose classrooms were painted blue.

"Because we see colors with our hearts, not our heads, they have the power to put us in a variety of moods," says Margi Daniels, ASID, La-Z-Boy design consultant. "So, when choosing colors for your home, choose wisely, according to a room's function and how certain colors make you and your family feel."

Following are the emotional and psychological influences of some of today's most popular color families. Use this information as a guide to determine the colors that are the best for your home.

Red: Reds stimulate our nervous systems and increase assertiveness. They make us feel empowered and energetic; thus, reds are ideal for areas where physical activity will take place, such as a play area or workout room. Have trouble getting up in the morning? Paint the bedrooms red. Chances are you will bolt out of bed.

Orange: Like reds, orange hues are stimulating. Both color families tend to increase the appetite, which is why they're so often used in restaurant interiors. People also laugh more and are more gregarious in the presence of orange. Dinner parties will last longer and seem more interesting in a coral or light orange dining room.

Yellow: Yellows remind us of sunshine. They can make a dark room seem bright and more cheerful. Used in a small room, yellow seems to visually expand the space.

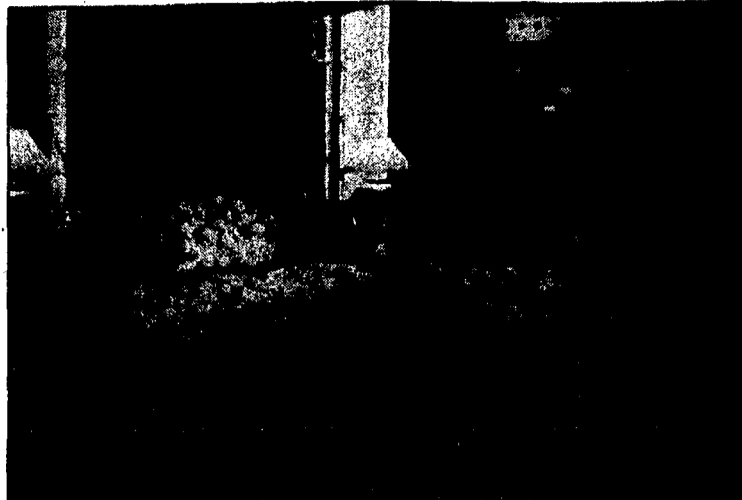
Green: Greens remind us of gardens, fields and forests. Surrounded by them, we feel calm and refreshed. Their relaxing influence makes greens welcome in bedrooms, bathrooms and other areas where peace and tranquility are desired. Greens also help bring nature indoors, making a hot, sunny room seem cooler.

Pink: Pinks give us a sense of well-being and make us feel affectionate, congenial and positively disposed towards others. No longer relegated to little girls' bedrooms, pink and its relatives rose, mauve and blush have become popular choices for today's social areas, such as living rooms, dining rooms and dens.

Brown: Symbolizing "down to earth," brown stabilizes, secures and supports. Browns, including beiges and taupes, are perfect for neutral territories of the home, such as kitchens or baths. They bridge together rooms, other colors and moods. They neither activate nor pacify; they blend, combine and cooperate.

Purple: This regal color inspires awe and respect. Because it has long been worn by clergy, it takes someone of high esteem to use it at home. When made lighter, it becomes more comfortable and assuring. A great color for an insomniac's bedroom, purple helps lower blood pressure and quiets those conversations with yourself that prevent you from sleeping.

Blue: The favorite color of most Americans, blue makes us think of clear skies and placid lakes. Like green, its psychological effects are calming and soothing, so it, too, is appropriate for



personal spaces where you plan to rest and relax.

"Remember, too, that color is very personal," says Daniels. "You may adore blue for its serenity, but your spouse may find it cold. Finding out how certain hues make you and your family feel is crucial to determining how best to color your world at home."

For more information on how to

make the rooms that make a home, call 1-800-MAKE A HOME to receive a free La-Z-Boy Home Furnishings Kit. The kit includes easy-to-follow steps for room planning and decorating, product information, definitions of common home furnishings terms, and a grid and ready-made furniture templates so you can develop your own floor plan.

Color is Key to Home Decorating

What's a great way to perk up a tired-looking room or give a sense of serenity to a room that's always full of chaos? Color! The right color scheme in a room can create an atmosphere that suits your particular lifestyles needs.

"When decorating a room, one of the first steps is to establish a color scheme," says Margi Daniels, ASID, La-Z-Boy design consultant. "And it doesn't take an interior designer to combine colors that will bring out the best in your home. With a little design know-how, selecting and coordinating colors can be easy."

A handy tool any do-it-yourself decorator can use to simplify the color selection process is a "color wheel" available at your local art supply store. Invented in the 17th century by Sir Isaac Newton and still widely used throughout the interior design industry today, the color wheel incorporates the spectrum of colors into an easy-to-use wheel form, helping designers and consumers alike create well-balanced

as well as aesthetically pleasing color schemes.

According to Daniels, there are four basic color schemes derived from the color wheel that can act as simple guidelines when decorating your home:

Triadic

Triadic color schemes are developed using any three colors that are equidistant from each other on the color wheel. When combined correctly, red, yellow and blue tones, for example, can be especially dramatic and beautiful.

Monochromatic Color Scheme

A monochromatic color scheme uses one color only, incorporating degrees of lightness and darkness (or value) of that color for variety. With a monochromatic color scheme, textural fabrics on upholstered furniture can be used to add depth and richness to a room. This scheme works the most effectively in small rooms.

Adjacent or "Related" Color Scheme

An Adjacent or "related" color scheme comprises three colors that are next to each other on the color wheel and have a common color denominator such as blue, blue-green and green. Daniels advises, "This scheme works well in any room of the home and tends to be the most fool proof."

Complementary Color Scheme

A complementary color scheme pairs two colors directly opposite one another on the color wheel, such as yellow and purple. For this type of color combination to work best, it is important to allow one color to dominate while the other serves as a contrast.

"There really is no need to be intimidated by color when decorating your home," said Daniels. "By using the right tools and following these simple guidelines, you will be able to combine colors that evoke the right mood and create an atmosphere that not only complements but enhances the activity or function of your room."

Consider these legal issues when hiring remodeling help



Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association has a few pointers for hiring residential contractors. 1. Be sure they are properly licensed with the State of Michigan. 2. Ask to see their Worker's Compensation and

Liability Insurance. (You could be liable for an injury if the contractor does not carry the proper insurance) 3. Ask for references and call them. Ask the client if they would hire the contractor again and why.

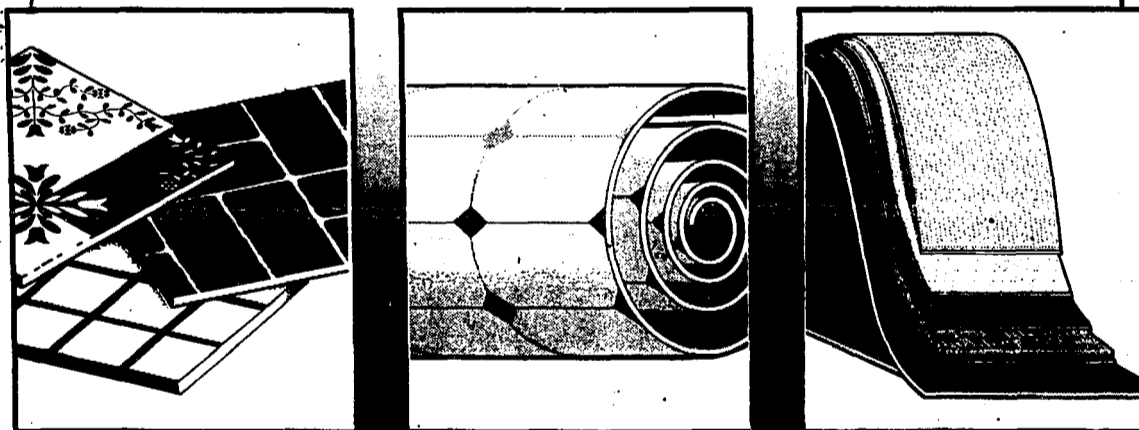
Jobs are bid in different ways. It may be a "Time and Material" job OR a full "Contract Job." Time and material is strictly that: you pay that contractor an hourly wage for his time, no matter how long it takes, and for the materials. The bottom line is not exactly known. A full contract bid includes all aspects of the job: labor, materials, specifications, payment schedules, etc. for one lump sum. You know exactly what the job will cost you.

Be sure you have everything in writing and that you are comfortable with the agreement. If you have questions, by all means, get the answers before you sign the contract.

Remodeling projects can be difficult to bid. A contractor doesn't always know what he will find behind that wall, roof, ceiling, etc. that you want remodeled. Reputable contractors do not intentionally stockpile extra materials for their own use. Some contractors will specify that if an unknown condition arises, it will be considered an "extra" and a change order will be provided to the owner for their approval of the added cost.

Tri-Lakes members are licensed and insured. Our goal is to educate the public on the benefits of hiring the properly licensed and insured contractor. This also applies to other trades of the building industry: Electricians, Plumbers, Heating, Cooling & Air Conditioning, Carpentry, Concrete, Excavating, Insulation, Masonry, Painting & Decorating, Siding, Roofing, Screen & Storm Sash, Gutters, Tile & Marble, House Wrecking, Swimming Pools and Basement Waterproofing. You can call Lansing to verify that their license is current at 1-900-555-8374 at a cost of \$1.50 per minute. You can contact Tri-Lakes for a list of their properly licensed and insured members at (517) 275-4759.

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The advantages of new home ownership

by Robert Brotebeck, President
Tri-Lakes Home Builders Association

Shopping for a home involves a lot of decisions. Should you buy a single-family detached home, a townhouse, or a condominium apartment? Do you want to live in the city or the suburbs? How many bathrooms and bedrooms do you need? Another key question involves whether you should buy a new or an existing home. New homes cost more on average, but they have numerous advantages.

Tastes and needs of homeowners change over time. Successful builders study changes in consumer lifestyles and work with skilled design professional and architects to incorporate features into their new homes which accommodate the changes. Houses built in the 1960s catered to the needs of a people in the 1960s. At the time, a much smaller percentage of couples had two wage earners, while households were likely to have a larger average number of children. In the 1990s, household sizes have fallen, and there are more two-income families.

To accommodate the needs of a 1990s household, a house might need two bathrooms off the master bedroom or a bathroom with two sinks to allow both members of the couple to get ready for work at the same time. Fewer number of children might mean that the house should have fewer rooms, but each room can be larger. Space that previously was devoted to a large living room may now be used for a special purpose room, such as a play room, a home office, or a media room

for the stereo system and/or television.

Many features of today's new homes were either rare or unheard of a few decades ago. In the mid-1960s, there were no home computers. There were no VCRs. There were no microwave ovens. Central air conditioning was very uncommon.

Houses built in that period have far fewer electrical outlets, because there were fewer devices to plug in. Houses today can be wired for the needs of the 21st Century — the extra telephone lines for you computer, special wiring for security systems, and a wiring system to accommodate all of the appliances and equipment you may want to install. Trying to retrofit older homes to accommodate these increasing wiring needs can be expensive and difficult.

Do you remember when gasoline cost 29 cents a gallon in the 60s? Since then, energy prices risen considerably, as have concerns about energy efficiency. As we are about to enter the 21st Century, houses are being built with much better insulation as well as more energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. Drafty houses and inefficient heating and cooling systems can put a big dent in your pocketbook, especially during peak heating and cooling periods.

Windows are another factor which affect both energy costs and personal safety. Modern windows allow builders to achieve a high level of energy efficiency without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. Modern windows also include safety glass in critical areas to reduce the risk of accident.

Kitchens have changed considerably over the past twenty years. They contain newer, more energy efficient appliances which offer numerous convenient features. Today's kitchens are more likely to have built-in microwaves and self cleaning ovens. The cost of having to replace or upgrade appliances should be factored into the price of any existing home being considered for purchase.

The appliances and goods within a new house come covered with manufacturers' warranties which afford buyers important protections. New homes also come with builder warranties on workmanship and materials. Most states give home buyers additional legal protections under implied warranties, which are based on either state statutes or precedents from lawsuits filed in the states. In many states, these protections may apply only to original purchasers of a home and not to subsequent purchasers.

For quality, value, safety and convenience, a new home may be one of the smartest purchases you could ever make.

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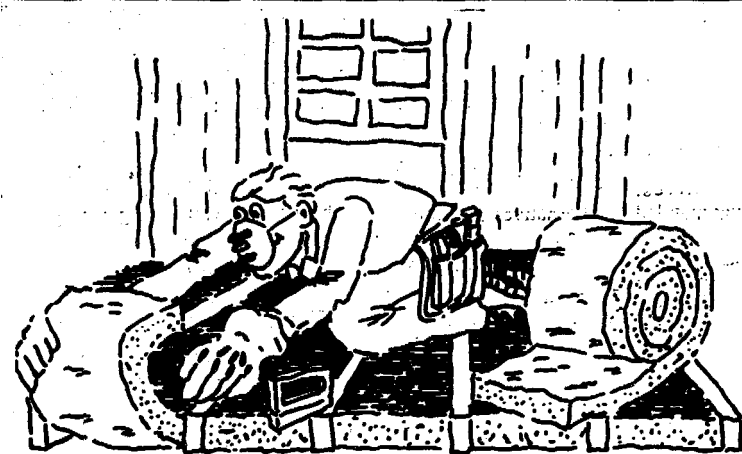
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Keeping Spots Out When Spot Is In

When you have a dog, you know the frustration of finding a spot to sit or lie down that is free of fleas and ticks. Even if you have a dog that is not a flea or tick carrier, you may find that your dog has brought home a flea or tick infestation. This is why it is important to keep your dog's spots clean and free of fleas and ticks. One way to do this is by using a flea and tick preventative. Another way is by using a flea and tick collar. Both of these methods can help to keep your dog's spots clean and free of fleas and ticks. It is also important to keep your dog's spots clean and free of fleas and ticks by using a flea and tick shampoo. This can help to kill any fleas or ticks that are on your dog's spots. Finally, it is important to keep your dog's spots clean and free of fleas and ticks by using a flea and tick spray. This can help to kill any fleas or ticks that are on your dog's spots. By using these methods, you can help to keep your dog's spots clean and free of fleas and ticks.



Ten Energy-Saving Ideas

Using energy wisely can reduce consumption and save money on utility bills, according to the American Gas Association. Here are some tips:

1. Seal leaks around doors, windows and other openings, such as pipes or ducts — with caulking or weather-stripping.
2. Set thermostats between 65 and 70 degrees in the winter, at least 5 degrees lower when sleeping, and at 58 degrees when away from home for more than a few hours. (Warmer temperatures are recommended for homes with ill or elderly persons or infants.)
3. Set water heater temperatures at 140 degrees (at 120 degrees in homes with infants or elderly persons to guard against accidental scalding), and install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
4. Change filters or clean the filters in heating and cooling units twice a year. Close vents and doors in unused rooms. If pipes or ducts run through unheated areas, insulate them.
5. Use drapes, shutters, awnings, shade trees, glass with reflective film or solar screens to keep sunlight out in the summer and let it in during the winter.
6. Check to see if attic and basement (or crawl space) have the recommended level of insulation.
7. If you have a woodburning fireplace, consider installing a natural gas fireplace insert, which can save on energy costs compared with wood. A gas fireplace also will dramatically reduce the air pollution created from burning wood.
8. Consider storm or thermal windows and doors or double paned glass. A less-expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to retain heat or air conditioning.
9. Be sure that dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers are fully loaded before running.
10. When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs. A slightly higher initial cost for a high-efficiency appliance could pay itself back in a very short time through energy savings and lower utility bills.

Many natural gas utilities offer assistance and special programs designed to help consumers reduce their energy bills. Contact your local gas utility for more information.

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Today's new homes have lots of space and amenities

Page 9—AVALANCHE HOME IMPROVEMENT—Thursday, March 26, 1998

by Robert Brobeck, President
Tri-Lakes Home Builders
Association

Buying a new home? If you do, your home will likely have central air conditioning, at least three bedrooms and two bathrooms, a fireplace, a two-car garage and about 1,900 square feet of living space.

Many of the trends in single-family homes tracked by the U.S. Census Bureau and analyzed by the National Association of Home Builders remained the same in 1995 or increased or decreased only slightly from 1994. However, measured against the 1980s, for example, the long-term trends in housing are clear—more space, more rooms and more amenities.

Central air conditioning is one characteristic that has continued its steady rise over the decades and has become a standard item in new single-family homes in most areas of the country. In 1995, 80 percent of new homes—more than ever—included central air, up from 79 percent in 1994 and from 70 percent in 1985.

In 1995, 48 percent of new homes had at least 2 1/2 bathrooms, down 1 percentage point from 1994 and the same as in 1993. But, 10 years ago, just 29 percent of the new single-family homes had 2 1/2 or more bathrooms.

The size of new single-family homes built last year dipped slightly and may be maxing out. The average size of

new homes built in 1995 was 2,095 square feet, down slightly from 2,100 square feet in 1994, and the same level as in 1992 and 1993. Median size fell to 1,920 square feet in 1995 from 1,940 square feet in 1994 and, again, the same level as in 1992. Just 10 years ago, new homes were substantially smaller. In 1985, average size was 1,785 square feet and median size was 1,660 square feet.

Twenty-eight percent of new homes built last year had more than 2,400 square feet. This trend has leveled off and has remained relatively the same since 1990. The number of small homes being built has also steadied. Just 10 percent of new homes built last year had less than 1,200 square feet, a

figure that has been cut in half since 1985 but has remained virtually unchanged for several years.

In 1995, median lot size was 9,375 square feet, down from 9,500 square feet in 1994. Median lot size has not changed drastically over the years and was 10,125 square feet in 1976, the first year the number was recorded. Average lot sizes moves more erratically but has moved down fairly steadily over the years. Average lot size peaked in 1978 at 18,760 square feet. It rose slightly last year to 13,665 square feet from 13,645 square feet in 1994.

The number of homes built with four or more bedrooms may also have peaked. In 1995, 30 percent of new homes had at least four bedrooms, unchanged from the previous two years. In 1985, 18 percent of new homes had four bedrooms.

One amenity that hasn't changed much in the past 10 years is fireplaces. Since 1986, the percentage of new homes with at least one fireplace has bounced between 62 percent and 66 percent, last year 63 percent of new homes had a fireplace.

The prevalence of two-car garages has grown significantly since 1985, but little in the last few years. In 1985, 55 percent of new homes included a garage for at least two cars; in 1995, 76 percent of new homes had at least a two-car garage, down from a high 78 percent in 1994. The appearance of basements has also changed little recently; in 1995, 39 percent of new homes had a full or partial basement, unchanged from 1994.

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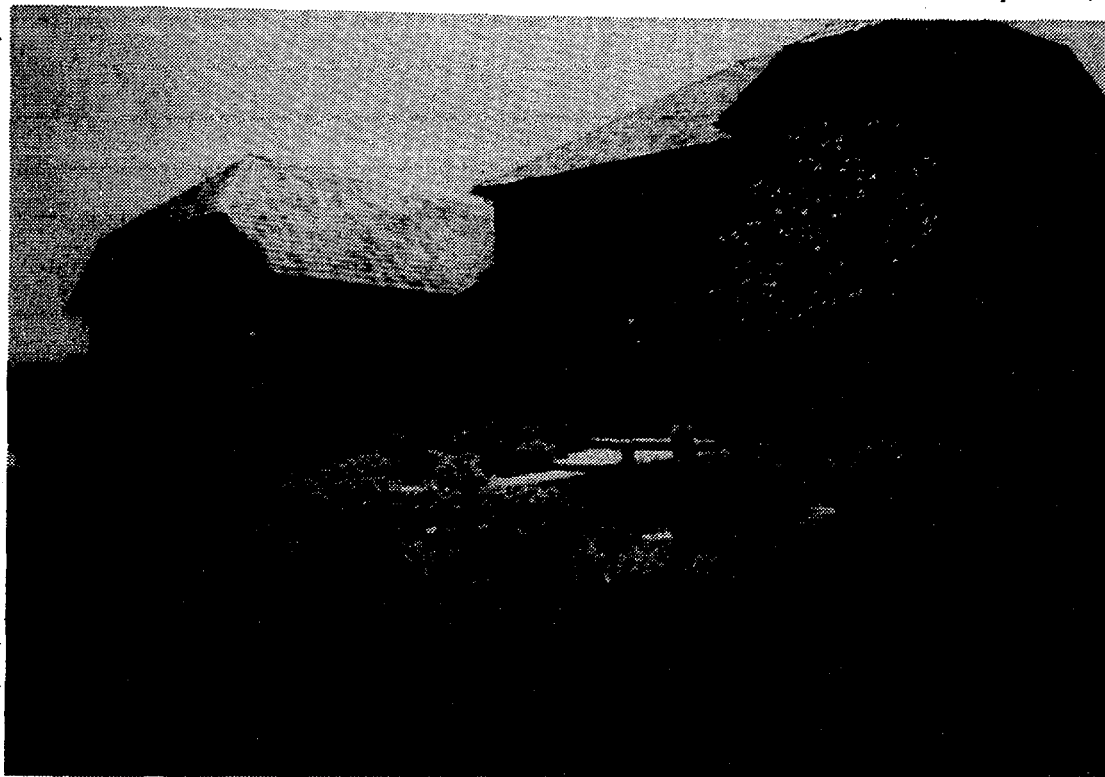
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Homemade cleaners make for safe alternatives

One of the best ways to be safer in your home is to use safer alternatives to commercial cleaners whenever possible. There are many time-honored recipes and suggestions to help you make the switch toward safer household products. Ingredients followed by instructions guide you through an array of easy-to-make, easy-to-use safer alternatives. Some ingredients recommended as alternatives are safer but not non toxic and are noted by an asterisk (*).

Air Fresheners

Most commercial air fresheners do not freshen the air at all. Instead, they mask one odor with another, coat your nasal passages with an undetectable oil film, or diminish your sense of smell with a nerve-deadening agent. For a safer alternative, you may wish to try one of the following:

- **Ventilation**—Open windows or doors in the house for at least a short period every day. This will also help to reduce toxic fumes that may be building up indoors.
- **Vinegar**—Distribute partially filled saucers of vinegar around the room or boil one tablespoon of white vinegar in one cup of water to eliminate unpleasant cooking odors.
- **Cinnamon & Cloves**—Boil these spices for a fragrant smell. For ease of cleaning, make a cheesecloth bag to contain the spices, and boil the cheesecloth bag. An excellent alternative when entertaining is to steep spiced tea or cider.
- **Potpourri**—Buy or make your own potpourri from your favorite herbs and spices. Place the potpourri in a small basket or jar or in small sachet bags.

Kitchen & Food Odors

- **Vanilla**—Place pure vanilla on a cotton ball in a small saucer. Place the saucer in the car or refrigerator to remove odors. It is highly recommended to remove even skunk odors. Keep the cotton ball out of reach of children; vanilla has a high alcohol content.
- **Baking Soda**—Place a partially filled saucer of baking soda on the refrigerator shelf. Replace every two months and when you do, pour the contents of the used box down the drain to remove odors and keep the drain clean. Baking soda can also be used to deodorize bottle by filling them with undiluted baking soda and

allowing the bottles to soak overnight. Then wash as usual.

- **Borax**—Empty the garbage frequently and clean the can as needed. To inhibit growth of odor-producing molds and bacteria, sprinkle one-half cup Borax in the bottom of the garbage can.
- **Vinegar or Celery Stalk**—To avoid or remove onion odors from your hands, rub white vinegar on your hands before and after slicing. Rubbing hands with the end of a celery stalk will also remove the odor.

Cleaners

- **All Purpose Cleaner**—Mix vinegar and salt together for a good surface cleaner. Another useful cleaner is baking soda. Dissolve four tablespoons baking soda in one quart warm water. You can also use baking soda on a damp sponge to clean and deodorize all kitchen and bathroom surfaces.
- **Carpet & Rug Cleaner**—If you plan to shampoo your carpet, first try a pre-cleaning treatment. Sweep the carpet, which will make the nap stand up and loosen the imbedded dirt. Next vacuum. With this work alone, the rug should show a noticeable improvement, so much in fact that you may decide to delay the shampooing. To neutralize odors use Borax* and cornmeal. Sprinkle the carpet with a mixture of one cup Borax and two cups cornmeal. Let this mixture stand for an hour before vacuuming. Another alternative is baking soda. Making certain that the carpet is dry, sprinkle baking soda liberally over the entire carpet. Wait at least 15 minutes, or overnight if the odor is particularly bad, before vacuuming.

- **Decal Remover**—Use vinegar to remove no-slip decals from the bathtub. Saturate a sponge or cloth and squeeze hot vinegar over the decals. Vinegar also removes stick-on hooks from pointed walls. Saturate a cloth or sponge with vinegar and squeeze the liquid behind the hook so that the vinegar comes in contact with the adhesive. In addition, vinegar can be used to remove price tags and other decals, from glass, wood, and china. Paint the label or decal with several coats of white vinegar. Give the vinegar time to soak in and after several minutes the decal can be rubbed off.
- **Disinfectant Soap**—Regular cleaning with plain soap and hot water will kill some bacteria. A key element to preventing bacteria is to keep things dry. Mold, mildew and bacteria cannot live

without moisture. Borax has long been recognized for its disinfectant and deodorizing properties. Mix one-half cup Borax into one gallon hot water and clean with this solution. Isopropyl Alcohol* is also an excellent disinfectant, sponge with it and allow to dry (it must dry to do its job). Use in a well-ventilated area and wear gloves.

- **Drain Cleaners & Drain Openers**—To avoid clogging drains, use a drain strainer to trap food particles and hair; collect grease in cans rather than pouring it down the drain; pour a kettle of boiling water down the drain weekly to melt fat that may be building up in the drain; or weekly put some vinegar and baking soda down your drain to break down fat and keep your drain smelling fresh. A time-honored drain opener is the plunger. This inexpensive tool will usually break up the clog and allow it to float away. It may take more than a few plunges to unclog the drain. Do not use this method after any commercial drain opener has been used or is still present in the standing water. Another way to avoid clogs is to use baking soda and vinegar. Pour one-half cup baking soda down the drain. Add one-half cup white vinegar and cover the drain if possible. The combination of baking soda and vinegar can break down fatty acids into soap and glycerine, allowing the clog to wash down the drain.

Information for this article was provided by the Michigan State University Extension.

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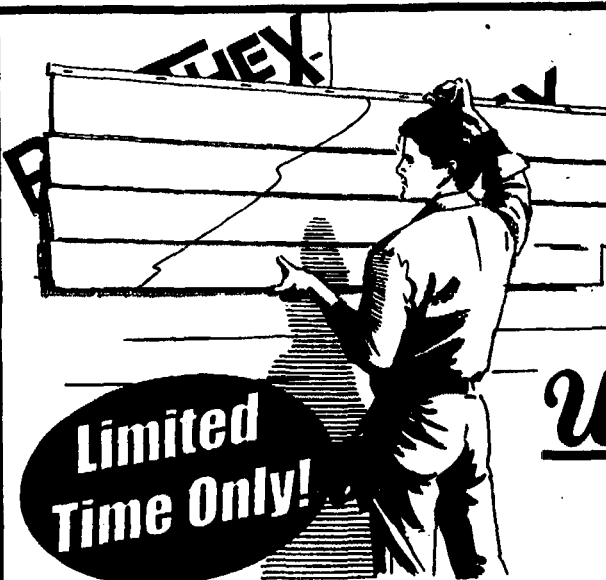
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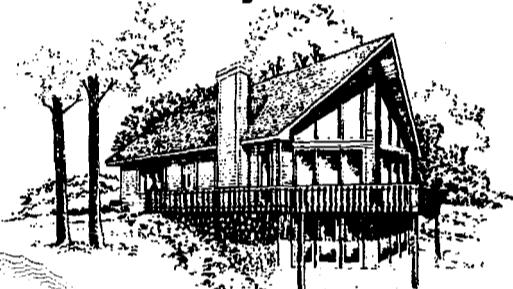
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The once-a-year once-over for your home's exterior

You may not judge a book by its cover, but think again if you're applying that adage to your home. Whether buying, selling or staying put, your home's exterior greatly affects first impressions as well as market value. By properly maintaining its exterior, your home's curb appeal is enhanced and you protect your investment. While no home is truly maintenance free, an annual house checkup keeps chores in check and rewards you while you live there and when you sell.

"Curb appeal is one of the most important factors in home sales," says Kathy Diffley, president of the St. Paul, Minn., Area Association of Realtors. "If you drive up to a house that's well cared for, buyers become excited." In fact, Diffley asserts that many buyers make a decision within a few seconds of arriving at a home — before even entering the front door. "Buyers are busy," says Diffley. "There's seldom time to view an interior if the exterior is disappointing."

Both the condition and color of a home's exterior affect buyers' impressions. According to Ray Pittman, a Chicago industrial designer and member of the prestigious Color Marketing Group, color also influences purchase decisions. Pittman, who advises Masonite Corporation on color choices for their Colorlok® factory-finished hardboard siding line, says, "Introducing a new, carefully selected siding color, or 'tweaking' a current shade, has been known to increase a siding's sales by as much as 40 percent in just one year."

And maintenance of your home's exterior should increase its worth and your pleasure. Think of home maintenance as physical fitness for your home. This enables you to take preventative measures to avoid situations that can become time-consuming, costly problems. Start with a yearly home inspection. It's all too easy to become complacent about minor problems right under your nose. Drive up to your house, viewing it through the eyes of a buyer. As Diffley puts it, "It's amazing what homeowners suddenly see!"

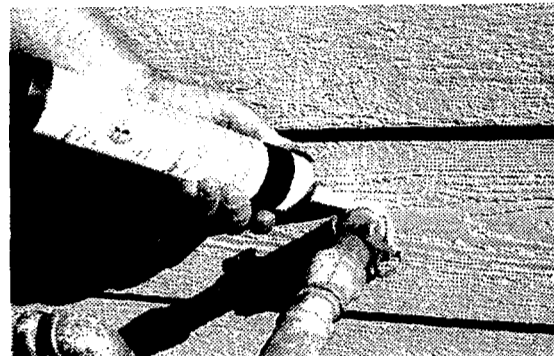
First, how do your sidewalk and driveway look? Do you see cracks or buckles? Consider calling an expert to determine if replacement is needed, or if other remedies will help.

Next, check out your landscaping. Is it neatly trimmed, or overgrown? Are foliage and shrubbery surrounding your home gangly or growing against the siding? If so, trim them to restore that "cared for" look. This also benefits your siding by restoring air circulation between shrubs and siding, and giving sunshine access to help keep the siding dry. While inspecting, check to see if algae or mildew is growing on the siding, especially behind the plants. If so, buy a mildew wash at your local hardware store and apply it to affected areas.

Follow with a close look at doors and windows. Your front door not only keeps out the cold, it's also



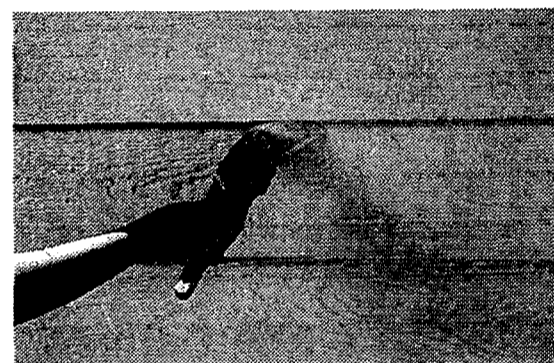
A yearly home inspection can help avoid costly maintenance problems while protecting the beauty of your home.



Any opening that can lead directly to the interior walls of the home should be sealed to the weather.



All flashing installations should be caulked with a non-hardening, high quality, long-life caulk.



Paint protects the home's siding from wear and damage due to the weather.



Cutting foliage away from direct contact with the siding helps prevent algae and mildew growth.



A once-a-year one-over enhances your home's curb appeal, protects your investment and provides peace of mind.

your home's "welcome mat." Check its appearance and make any needed improvements. (How's the screen door? Polish that door knob and/or kick-plate. Repaint if color is fading.) Next, take a close look at your windows. Is the trim peeling or bubbling? It may be time to scrape and repaint.

Now take a look at the house as a whole. Does your home's exterior appear clean and well maintained? Does the siding have dents, cracks or discoloration? Check siding for any nail or caulking irregularities. If nails protrude, lightly tap them flush with the siding. If nails are overdriven, fill in with a high-quality caulk.

Also, apply new caulk in places where the old is loose or cracked, after removing old caulk.

Is your paint cracking, flaking, eroding, or is the color simply out of date? A fresh coat may be the best solution. Be sure to clean your siding prior to repainting. If any substrate is bare, apply primer and follow with two high-quality topcoats. Also, remember to paint the bottom edge of the siding as well as the face. Carefully select your new color to ensure lasting appeal.

"Lifestyles influence color. In today's working world, the hectic pace makes us seek comfort and sanctuary at home," says designer

Pittman. "Colors are taking their cue from nature. Brick and stone elements and generous roof designs require siding colors that complement and integrate with these natural materials." For example, tans, buffs, khakis and warm grays work very well. Color elements and craftsmanship elements will tie it all together. Adds Pittman, "Siding color lightened five times becomes the perfect trim shade. Pastels are returning, but more like faded, stronger colors, rather than the chalkier pastels of yesterday."

Maybe it's time to replace your siding altogether. Hardboard sidings resist the denting, cracking, rusting or corroding to which other sidings are susceptible. Masonite Corporation's Colorlok or SuperSide® sidings are excellent alternatives.

If you prefer a custom color or dramatic painting scheme, consider a siding that comes factory primed and ready to paint, such as SuperSide, which is available in weathered pine, rough-sawn cedar and classic smooth design styles. SuperSide's color is limited only by your imagination.

Finally, Realtor Diffley reminds us of the number one rule of home maintenance. "Don't get behind. Stay abreast of what needs to be done."

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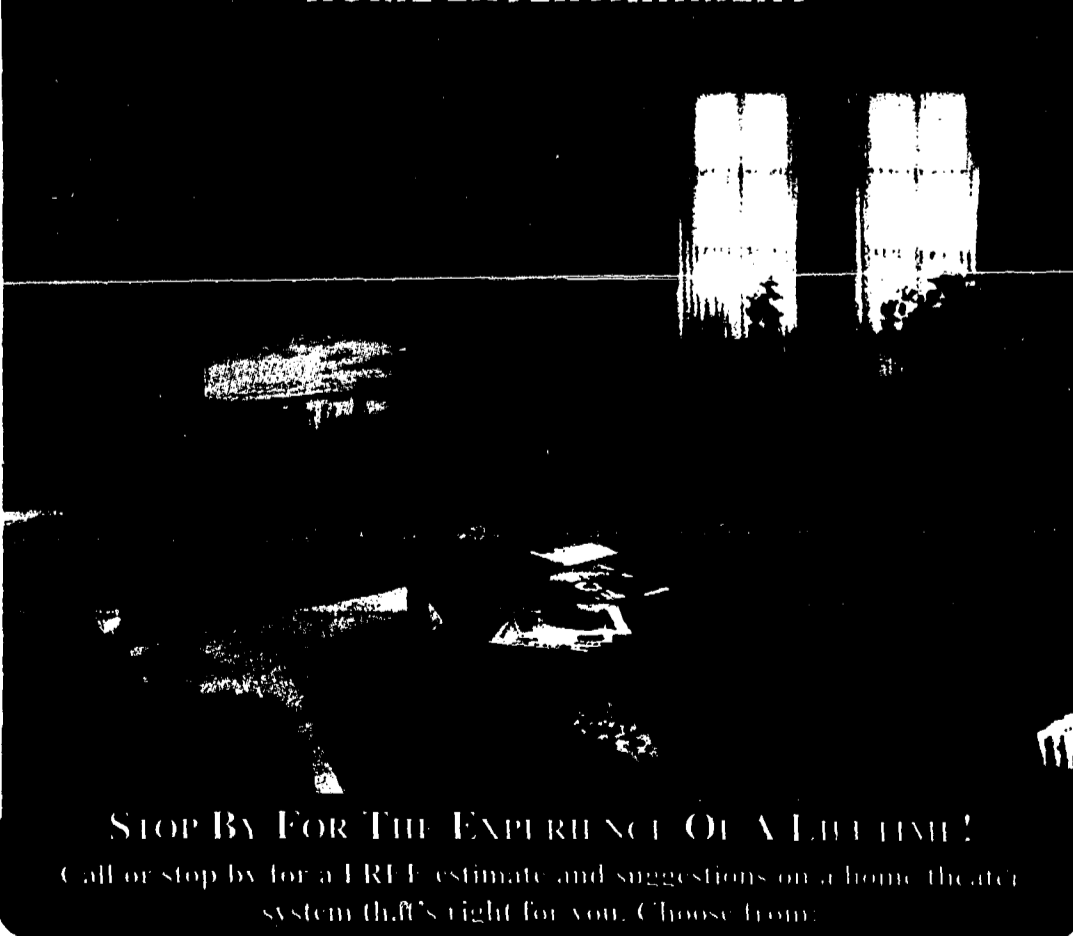
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